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Katharine Hamnett in G2



Health, page 10

Education, page 12

Public backs gays in Cabinet

Exclusive poll shows majority not concerned by homosexuality

Alan Travis
Home Affairs Editor

A MAJORITY of British voters support openly gay politicians holding cabinet jobs, according to today's Guardian/ICM opinion poll, which endorses Tony Blair's backing of his "outed" Agriculture Minister, Nick Brown.

The days when it was assumed that the British public was overwhelmingly intolerant of homosexuals are over, according to the November opinion poll, published today. By 56 per cent to 36 per cent, voters say they regard being gay as morally acceptable.

The findings will reassure those gay cabinet ministers, such as Mr Brown, the Culture Secretary Chris Smith, and Trade and Industry Secretary Peter Mandelson, that there is no longer automatically a political price to pay for public knowledge of their sexuality.

The November ICM poll also shows that the public do want to see a law to protect the private lives of the royal family and celebrities such as pop stars from media intrusion. But the voters believe politicians should not enjoy similar legal protection for their private lives from media investigation.

The poll also shows that the Ron Davies affair and the continuing signs of economic downturn have had no impact on Labour's standing with the voters. Labour remain unchanged on 51 per cent, while the Tories are down two points on last month, at 27 per cent.

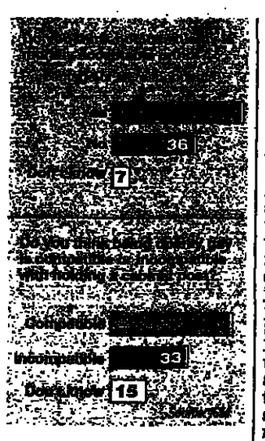
The findings come as MPs turned on the media, particularly on the Sun newspaper over its suggestion yesterday that there was a "gay Mafia" running Britain and its hint that it was in a position to make further disclosures about Mr Brown's private life if it so chose.

The Deputy Prime Minister, John Prescott, attacked the weekend media "outing" of Mr Brown as "quite unacceptable" and claimed some newspapers were acting as "judge, jury and executioner". But he and Downing Street made clear they did not back a new privacy law.

Instead they hope that self-regulation in the form of the Press Complaints Commission will deal with the incident under its privacy code. But last night the PCC chairman, Lord Wakeham, said such an inquiry was impossible without a personal complaint being lodged by Nick Brown. A spokesman for Mr Brown said he had no intention of making a complaint.

He said: "Mr Brown has been very touched by the support he has received from close colleagues and from members of the public, including the farmers.

"He is determined to get on with the job that the Prime Minister has entrusted him to do and has no intention of making a complaint about the press coverage or of commenting further on his private life."



The Guardian/ICM poll also shows that there is no north/south divide over attitudes towards gay people. There is, however, a strong gender gap. Women are more liberal in their attitudes, with 61 per cent to 31 per cent saying homosexuality is morally acceptable. This compares with a 51 per cent to 43 per cent divide among men. Attitudes also vary along social class lines with large majorities in favour of moral acceptance of gays in all groups apart from the unskilled and unemployed, who split 45 to 43 per cent.

It does not appear that the voters were simply being polite when the ICM pollsters called. A similar poll for the New York Times in August found that 58 per cent of Americans believe that homosexuality is morally wrong.

The detailed results on the ICM question asking about whether being openly gay was compatible with holding a cabinet post show that it is partly a generational issue.

Tolerance was strongest among the 25 to 34 year old age group who split 61 per cent to 28 per cent in favour. Support was weakest among the over 65s, who were the only age group — marginally — to say being homosexual was incompatible with cabinet office.

The ICM findings on a privacy law mainly confirm the results of a Guardian poll 12 months ago when the public also took a different view of the need for statutory protection of the private lives of the royals from those of politicians. An overwhelming majority of the public still appear to agree with Earl Spencer's attack at Princess Diana's funeral on the "evil tabloids." But there has been a slight shift in the proportion who think politicians should be exempted from a new privacy law.

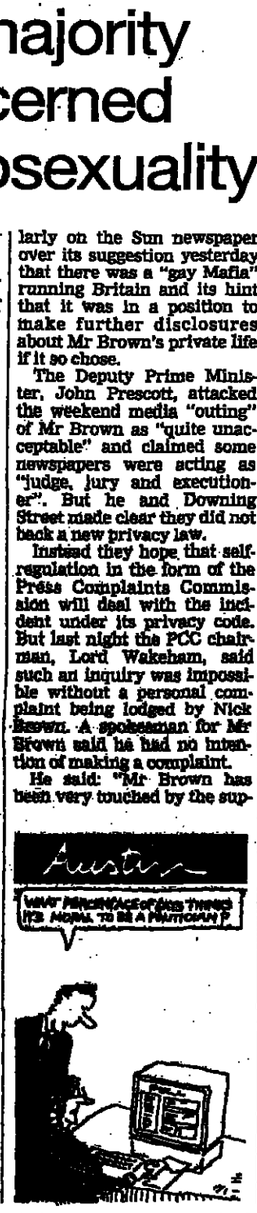
The public marginally think that politicians' private lives should not enjoy legal protection, by 49 to 42 per cent, but this compares with 53 per cent to 45 per cent a year ago. The "don't knows" have risen from 2 to 9 per cent, suggesting growing scepticism about the intrusive activities of newspapers.

Clive Soley, chairman of the Parliamentary Labour Party, yesterday accused newspaper editors of breaching time and again the voluntary code of conduct drawn up with the PCC to protect individuals' privacy.

The Liberal Democrats home affairs spokesman, Alan Beith, said: "The Sun is on a very dangerous road indeed and we know where it leads to. Stigmatising minorities in society and promoting ludicrous conspiracy theories about them is the basis of all the horrors of Hitler's Germany."

□ ICM interviewed a random sample of 1,222 adults aged over 18 by telephone on November 6 and 7. Interviews were conducted across the country and the results weighted to the profile of all adults.

Outing tests press code, page 8; Richard Norton-Taylor, page 8; Letters and leader comment, page 9 Should private lives remain private? Read the evidence and have your say. http//reports.guardian.co.uk/privacy/





Agriculture minister Nick Brown on a Devon farm yesterday. He was 'touched' by support he received PHOTOGRAPH: MARC HILL

Carlos the Jackal 'ready to die' in hunger strike

Jon Henley in Paris

CARLOS the Jackal, once the world's most wanted terrorist after a string of sensational attacks around the world during the seventies and early eighties, is on the sixth day of a potentially life-threatening hunger strike.

He has refused all food and liquids and, according to his lawyer, he is prepared to go "to the fateful end".

President Jacques Chirac has been warned that Carlos is prepared to die unless he is taken out of solitary confinement in the Paris jail where he is serving a life sentence for murder. His lawyer, François Vuillemin, said that he was already weak and dehydrated but remained "completely determined".

Most doctors believe the risk of death from dehydration becomes acute after the sixth or seventh day without any form of liquid.

"No prisoner in republican and democratic France has had to undergo such extreme moral torture," Mr Vuillemin wrote to the president. "This man has been buried alive. Without imploring, since he is not one to beg, he appeals through me to your conscience, Mr President, to stop this measure now, and return to him the dignity of a man deprived of his liberty."

Carlos, born Ilich Ramirez Sanchez in Venezuela 49 years ago, has been held in total isolation at the capital's La Santé jail since August 16 1994, two days after his arrest and abduction from the Sudan by French secret service agents.

Sentenced to life in prison late last year for the murder of two French policemen in 1975, the former pro-Palestinian terrorist is blamed for more than 80 deaths and hundreds of injuries around the world. He is widely accused of the audacious abduction of 12 Opec oil ministers in Vienna in 1975, and of involvement with the 1976 Palestinian hijacking of a French airliner to Entebbe, Uganda, which ended with an Israeli commando raid in which more than 30 people died.

Carlos's name has also been repeatedly linked with the 1972 massacre of 11 Israeli athletes by Palestinian commandos at the Munich Olympics, the wounding of the British millionaire and Marks & Spencer's chief Edward Sieff in 1973, and the Japanese Red Army's takeover of the French embassy in The Hague in 1974.



Carlos the Jackal: sixth day of protest at jail treatment

In France, Carlos — dubbed "the Jackal" after a Guardian journalist discovered a copy of Frederick Forsyth's thriller in his flat — is still under investigation for a string of bomb attacks that killed 17 people.

In a letter distributed last week by another of his lawyers, Isabelle Coutant-Peyre, Carlos had complained that prison officers were harassing him and that letters and books sent to him had been seized. He demanded an end to his solitary confinement and asked for French lessons.

"For more than four years, the French state has violated every legal principle and only increased its provocation of my client," Ms Peyre wrote in an accompanying letter to the justice minister, Elisabeth Guigou. "It is time to end this senseless humiliation."

Carlos's trial in Paris involved the shooting of two agents of the French DST secret service, Jean Donatini and Raymond Dousson, and a Lebanese informer, Michel Moukharbal, on June 27 1975, in an apartment on the rue Toullier in the Latin Quarter.

He said he was proud to accept "moral responsibility for all the attacks of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine", but neither denied nor confessed to the rue Toullier killings or any other terrorist acts.

Last-minute deal saves West Indies cricket tour

THE most extraordinary rebellion in the history of cricket was defused at the eleventh hour last night with a victory for player power.

The reinstatement of the captain Brian Lara and his deputy Carl Hooper, who had been sacked last week by the West Indies cricket board in a dispute over pay and conditions, ensured the team's tour of South Africa would go ahead.

The players caught the last flight out of Heathrow last night after a six-day stand-off and round-the-clock negotiations at the airport.

The agreement, brokered by the former captain and fast bowler Courtney Walsh, was reached last night in time to save the match against a Gauteng XI in Soweto tomorrow, a fixture which is seen as vital to the development of cricket in South Africa's townships.

President Nelson Mandela had made a personal plea for the tour, the first ever by the West Indies to South Africa, to go ahead. Dr Ali Bacher, managing director of South Africa's United Cricket Board, flew to London to help the sides reach an agreement.

David Hopps, page 16

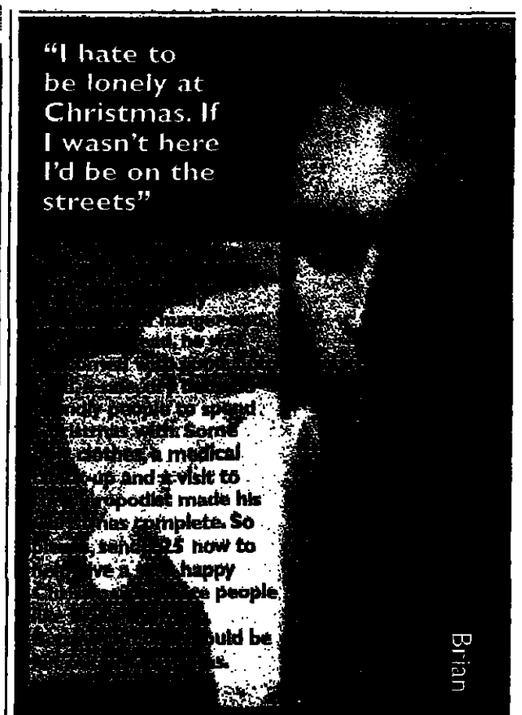


A YEAR ago Winston Davis, the former West Indies fast bowler, was helping to build a church on St Vincent, where he was born, when a falling branch left him tetraplegic. His needs were enormous in care and money. In August Matthew Engel, in the Guardian, drew attention to his story and the failure of cricket to look after its own. As an afterthought he added an address enabling readers to help.

Readers did, to the tune of £34,000. Last week Davis (above) left hospital in the resultant wheelchair-friendly vehicle, going home to his wife and daughter in Worcestershire. But the family, profoundly touched and grateful, still have a long way to go.

Matthew Engel, page 15

"I hate to be lonely at Christmas. If I wasn't here I'd be on the streets"



Brian

Take the crisis out of Christmas

Here is my gift of:
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Card no. / / / / / / / / / / / / / / / /
†Last three digits of Switch card no. / / / Switch issue no. /
Expiry date / / Signature ____
* Gifts of £250 or more are worth almost a third extra to us under Gift Aid
Name (caps) Mr/Mrs/Ms ____
Address ____
Postcode ____
OR please call our freephone donation line 0800 038 48 38
Crisis, FREEPOST, Room 101, London SE21 8BR
Details have been changed to protect identity.
CRISIS
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Austria AS 30	France FF 12	Luxembourg LF 65	Saudi Arabia R 10
Belgium BF 70	Germany DM 5.80	Madeira E 210	Slovakia SK 65
Bulgaria LV 580	Greece D 800	Malta ML 0.90	Slovenia SLT 290
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Croatia KN 16.00	Hungary F 300	Netherlands G 4.25	Sweden SK 17
Cyprus CE 1.00	Iceland IK 180	Norway NK 18	Switzerland SF 3.50
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Denmark DK 17	Italy L 3,500	Pakistan R 80	Turkey TL 170,000
Dubai D 5.50	Jordan JD 1.25	Poland Zł 8.50	Ukraine US$ 3.50
Egypt E£ 8.50	Kenya KSH 180	Portugal E 280	USA US$ 3.00

UK news
Economic forecasts point to 10 per cent, but chief executive Bob Ayling dismissed rumours of problems. **Page 6**

International
As Britain stepped up its disaster aid, Clare Short again insisted debt relief was irrelevant to coping with Hurricane Mitch. **Page 7**

Our e-mail address for editorial comments or suggestions is gseurope@guardian.co.uk

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In G2 Europe today: How Oxbridge is now obliged to lobby a red brick Cabinet

+ Learning curve: Roger Coghill on cadavers, Graham Chapman and a very red-faced teacher

Sketch

Church profits a standing joke



Simon Hoggart

AUSTIN Mitchell MP yesterday winkled out the month's most fascinating statistic so far.

The member for Grimsby inquired what the effect of Viagra has been on the financial assets of the Church Commissioners. This is the body which runs the Church of England, and which is answerable to Parliament through one of their number, Stuart Bell, the Labour MP for Middlesbrough.

Mr Mitchell wanted to know how the commissioners' investment in shares of Pfizer, the company which makes Viagra, had improved their portfolio — or, as he put it, "what has been the effect on the Church's standing?"

It turned out that, according to Mr Bell, Viagra had made the Church £3 million richer over the course of three months. It would take an awful lot of cream teas and jumble sales to raise the same amount.

I'm sure the source of this money won't trouble the Church at all. I could write the sermons now.

"You know, when we get married, we say that wonderful little phrase: 'With my body, I thee worship'. Well, as it happens, an awful lot of chaps find that what with old age and one thing and another, they're just not able to worship in the same way they once did.

"It can be frightfully embarrassing. Imagine not being able to get your advent candle lit. Or turning up at the Harvest Festival without a vegetable marrow! So I've decided that at the next Holy Communion, instead of wafers, I'll be giving all our communicants little blue pills.

"As well as helping you all in your day-to-day worship, you'll be supporting the splendid work of the Church . . ."

You could almost hear MPs' brains whirling as they tried to come up with a new Viagra joke in response to Mr Bell. But there aren't any. Once you've done "standing", and the one about the "gang of hardened criminals" and the "what happens if you take Viagra and Prozac at the same time?" joke (answer: if you don't get a f*** you don't give a f***), there's nothing left.

But you could make a jolly arresting poster for the steeple restoration fund.

Earlier, Peter Mandelson answered questions about the Dome, for which he remains responsible. The Tories wanted to know whether the fact that he was now Trade and Industry Secretary meant that firms were, in effect, being blackmailed — not their words, but mine — into supporting the Dome.

Mr Mandelson said ingenuously that he was merely the "shareholder" in the Dome. "I do not seek sponsorship deals, so no conflict arises." Oh, yes. We know he doesn't expect us to believe this; he knows we know, and so forth.

My old friend Michael Fabricant had him in trouble when he asked whether the £100 million already promised by big companies was in "irrevocable signed contracts".

A good question, so Mandy didn't answer it. "The companies have committed in the way I have described," he said, whatever that might mean.

Mr Mitchell, again, was contemptuous. The Dome, instead of being a celebration of British achievements and prospects, was "a mammoth piece of commercial hucksterism, as companies parade their products on the back of £580 million of public money."

Mandy was reduced to demanding that Tory MPs give up their wages for the last hour of the present millennium for a children's charity. (How many MPs are going to be working at 11pm on December 31 next year?)

He was saved when, as so often these days, the Tory spokesman went bonkers. Mr Spring said he had compared himself to John the Baptist — "far from champagne and oysters, St John ate locusts and wild honey, he had no spin doctors, and his head duly ended up — *on a plate!*"

After this demented rant, Mr Mandelson was home, safe and dry.

Review

Nice lass, shame about the voice

Phil Daoust

Jane McDonald
The Palladium, London

WHEN you're in show business, said the comic in the support slot, "you've got to travel all over the world. Especially if your act's rubbish." We assumed he was making a joke at his own expense, but it was a dangerous thing to say on the night Jane McDonald finally got to sing at the London Palladium.

Just last year, McDonald was an unknown chanteuse waiting for that big break. Or, rather, who'd given up waiting for it.

After 12 years filling out the chorus on cruise ships and traipsing round the clubs of northern England, she'd decided to settle down, learn to cook and prepare for married life with Henrik, a marine engineer she had met on one of the cruises.

Then a remarkable coincidence. McDonald got a chance to top the bill on a cruise ship, just as the BBC was filming its fly-on-the-bulkhead documentary The Cruise.

She became a focal point of the show, which finished its run with an audience of 12 million. And Jane McDonald — nice, pleasant, down-to-earth Wakefield lass — was a star.

Just when she thought things couldn't get any better, her first ever recording went straight to number one in the album charts, winning her a place in the Guinness Book Of Records and knocking The Beastie Boys off the top spot. The CD has now sold more than 300,000 copies, and her 28-date tour is a sell out.

And so, as McDonald told us, you could actually feel the warmth coming off the Palladium's capacity crowd, who clearly thought of her as one of the family.

It didn't matter whether or not she could sing — though they knew she would be great — they loved her. Hell, they had even been invited to her wedding — them and 10 million others, courtesy of a follow-up programme from the Beeb.

It seems churlish, then, to point out that McDonald isn't much of a performer once she gets beyond joking about her age (officially 35), telling us how ordinary she is or introducing her new hubby, and actually has to use her voice and body to work with the music.

In a show made up almost entirely of female-vocal classics such as River Deep, Mountain High and You Don't Have To Say You Love Me, she rarely attempted to break away from the best-known interpretations — which she had no hope of matching with a voice that was pleasant enough but lacked any real character.

Hence a sub-Petula Downtown and a cut-price-Cilla You're My World, with nary a stab at originality.

Things only got worse when she had to inject a little feeling, as it came down to a choice between deepening her voice or shouting, but never trying to make the words mean something.

It was more uninspiring than appalling, and McDonald's fans seemed delighted with the whole affair, but I found myself wishing she'd let one of her sparky backing singers have a chance. Or perhaps Maureen from Driving School.

PM distances himself from Straw's hint that referendum before the next election has been ruled out

Blair reassures PR lobby

Ewen MacAskill, Chief Political Correspondent

TONY Blair distanced himself yesterday from sceptical remarks on electoral reform by the Home Secretary, Jack Straw, after protests from the Liberal Democrat leader, Paddy Ashdown.

Mr Straw, the cabinet minister most hostile to PR, enraged the Liberal Democrats last week when he dropped a heavy hint in the Commons that a referendum on electoral reform will be delayed until after the next election.

Mr Blair's official spokesman yesterday sought to placate Mr Ashdown's party by redressing the balance, insisting that a referendum on electoral reform remained a real option.

While Downing Street regards the Liberal Democrats as unnecessarily sensitive about Mr Straw's remarks, Mr Blair is keen to protect his close relationship with Mr Ashdown.

Mr Blair's spokesman said whether a referendum was held before the general election depended on how the public debate turned out. If there was a tide moving in the direction of reform both in the party and in the country, then there was a strong chance the referendum could be held. Asked if the chances of such a referendum were better than 10 per cent, he said: "More than that."

Autumn 2000 has been touted as a possible date: the general election is expected the following year. According to Westminster sources, the Liberal Democrats' protests were shared by pro-PR Labour MPs, including senior ministers, who complained that Mr Straw had broken a party pact not to deviate from the cabinet line. But Downing Street denied this.

A commission headed by Lord Jenkins of Hillhead, who was described as "livid" about Mr Straw's remarks, set out an alternative to first-past-the-post last month. He predicted his system could not be introduced until 2006.

That prediction provided an opening for opponents of PR and the belief has gathered over the last fortnight, aided by Mr Straw, that the Government has ruled out a referendum until after the general election.

The message from Downing Street yesterday was intended to correct that. Mr Blair's official spokesman said: "The fact is that Jenkins has said this system cannot be introduced before the election but it is wrong to say a referendum before the election has been ruled out."

Mr Ashdown's office welcomed Mr Blair's assurance yesterday: "It is clear the Prime Minister is determined for Jenkins to remain a live issue and a key part of the programme which is not going to be sidelined. He clearly intends to maintain Labour's manifesto commitment for a referendum this parliament unless there is a very good reason not to do so."

Although Mr Blair is often described as lukewarm on electoral reform, insisting he has still to be persuaded, Downing Street argues that the debate has changed because Lord Jenkins has provided a "proper system" for people to get their teeth into.

Mr Blair has a difficult balancing act. Cabinet ministers in favour of PR include Mo Mowlam, Clare Short and Robin Cook, who before the publication of the Jenkins report had said the referendum had to be held before the general election.

Ranked against PR are Mr Straw, John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, Margaret Beckett, the Leader of the Commons, and many other members of the Cabinet.

Mobile phone radiation 'may be killer'

Rory Carroll

THE embryonic campaign for mobile phones to carry health warnings took a significant step forward yesterday when a scientist began Britain's first private prosecution under the Consumer Protection Act, claiming long-term use could cause cancer and other diseases.

Britain's estimated 10 million users were being kept ignorant of the radiation which could kill them because authorities were slow to recognise the danger, a court was told.

Roger Coghill, a biologist from Pontypool, South Wales, said he launched the case, at Abergavenny magistrates' court, out of concern for the public's health and safety.

Mobile Communication Services Ltd, of Cwmbran, South Wales, which rejected Mr Coghill's request to display warnings, denied breaching safety requirements.

Mr Coghill, aged 58, said he had many letters from people who believed they had suffered savagely from using mobile phones.

Hugo Charlton QC, prosecuting, said the case would not have gone ahead if warnings were displayed. "This case is being brought because at the moment nothing is being done whatsoever."

Mr Charlton said manufacturers should warn customers of the possible dangers even though scientists disagreed about the risk level.

Christopher Busby, the British representative on the European Committee on Radiation Risk, testifying on behalf of Mr Coghill, said he feared the authorities would replicate the BSE blunder and delay recognising the risk.

"There is quite a considerable time lag involved before these conservative bodies like the National Radiological Protection Board say 'okay, we can see there is a risk now'. But because there is a lag between exposure to cancer causing agents and the manifestation of cancer, this time lag results in the death of a lot of people."

Alasdair Phillips, a radiation expert, said he had been contacted by mobile phone users reporting headaches, loss of concentration, skin tingling, burning or twitching, eye tics, poor short term memory, buzzing in the head, dementia, fatigue and other effects.

"We have got numbers of people that are now unable to work who have been using mobile phones up to seven or eight hours a day.

"A lot of people coming to me have been heavy users. All have been City traders and British Telecom employees who are expected to use their phones every day."

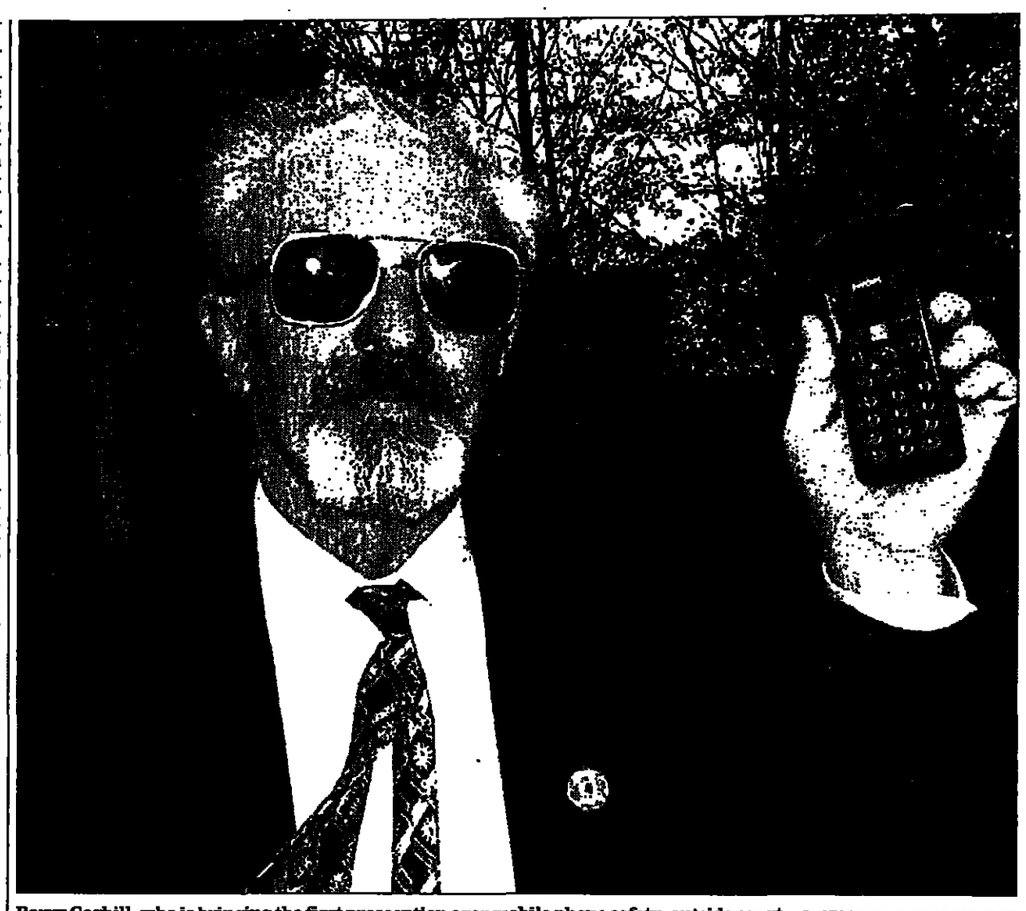
Mr Philips said cancers caused by other environmental factors can take up to 20 years to appear. "It is too early to say, but we are starting to see lymphomas of the neck in heavy phone users.

"It has been repeatedly shown that a few minutes exposure to cell phone type radiation can transform a 5 per cent active cancer into a 95 per cent active cancer for the duration of the exposure and for a short time afterwards."

Wayne Morgan, of Mobile Communication Services, said he had met Mr Coghill to discuss his request for warnings.

"He asked about putting notices on the phones themselves, but I was reluctant to do that because it would be rebranding another company's product."

The hearing is expected to end today.



Barry Coghill, who is bringing the first prosecution over mobile phone safety, outside court PHOTOGRAPH: BARRY BATCHELOR

'We are starting to see lymphomas of the neck in heavy phone users. It has been repeatedly shown that a few minutes exposure to cell phone type radiation can transform a 5 per cent active cancer into a 95 per cent active cancer'

– Radiation expert Alasdair Philips

Visit by German right prompts fury in Israel

Ian Traynor in Bonn

DOZENS of far-right German activists and politicians, allegedly including several former Nazis, provoked outrage in Israel last night by attempting to visit Jerusalem on the 60th anniversary of the Kristallnacht pogroms in the Third Reich during which tens of thousands of German Jews were beaten, arrested, and many killed.

Before they left Germany the Israeli authorities had warned the group of around 40 Germans, which included politicians from the former chancellor Helmut Kohl's Christian Democratic party, that they would be denied entry.

Last night the pilot of the Lufthansa aircraft carrying the party landed in the Turkish capital, Ankara, to offload the unwelcome "tourists", before flying on to Jerusalem, according to a correspondent of the Israeli newspaper, Yediot Achronot.

The group was to have been led by Joachim Siegerist, a German neo-Nazi leader who has been sentenced for racist offences. He is chairman of a grouping known as The German Conservatives.

It was unclear, however, whether Siegerist was on board the flight. The "delegation" of Germans announced it was embarking on a 10-day tour of Christian sites in the Holy Land. Heinrich Lummer, a politician on the right wing of Mr Kohl's CDU, was expected to lead the group in the absence of Siegerist.

The German embassy in Tel Aviv voiced sympathy for the upset caused in Israel by the planned visit and said it did not know in advance that Siegerist, "very well-known in Israel and Germany for his extreme rightwing views", was intending to enter Israel.

On the night of 9-10 November 1938, nine months before the outbreak of the second world war, Nazi thugs went on the rampage in Germany and Austria, torching synagogues, smashing Jewish businesses, arresting tens of thousands of Jews and deporting many of them to the embryonic concentration camps.

The anniversary was marked in Germany, Austria and Israel yesterday, with Chancellor Gerhard Schröder and President Roman Herzog of Germany commemorating the dreadful events at a synagogue in Berlin.

Holocaust survivors reacted with horror when the Israeli media reported the imminent arrival of the German party of elderly rightwing political activists on what is one of the most emotive anniversaries of the Nazi era.

The Yad Vashem Holocaust memorial museum in Jerusalem, where Kristallnacht commemoration services were held yesterday, issued a statement saying: "Dozens of upset Holocaust survivors have called here today to express their protest and pain over this incident, particularly its timing."

Siegerist said the timing of the group's arrival in Jerusalem was "pure coincidence".



'Outing' tests press code

Minister declines to make official complaint about tabloid coverage but senior MPs demand action

David Pallister and Geoffrey Gibbs

THE tabloid outing of Nick Brown as a gay cabinet minister led to calls yesterday from senior MPs for an investigation by the Press Complaints Commission but its chairman, Lord Wakeham, said he could only act if Mr Brown made a formal complaint.

As the agriculture minister was greeted with messages of support from farmers when he visited the West Country, Lord Wakeham said he would be contacting Mr Brown to see if he wanted the PCC to examine the way in which he was forced to admit his homosexuality.

But speaking at a Devon farmyard, Mr Brown said: "I don't want to say anything more at all about my private life or get embroiled in any long arguments about it.

"Everybody has been very kind and very supportive and I am very moved and touched by the support and kindness that has been shown to me. The best way I can repay that is by getting on and being an effective cabinet minister and an effective agriculture minister and that is exactly what I intend to do."

Later, a spokesman for Mr Brown said: "He's determined to get on with the job that the Prime Minister has entrusted him to do and has no intention of making a complaint about the press coverage."

Lord Wakeham made his statement after the Sun published a front page comment asking if the country was run by a "gay mafia of politicians, lawyers, palace courtiers and TV bigwigs". It called on other gay ministers to declare themselves.

Lord Wakeham said: "Clearly, if Mr Brown chooses not to co-operate, then the PCC cannot conduct a fair and even-handed investigation under the code."

Clause 3 of the PCC's code of practice says "everyone is entitled to respect for his or her private and family life, home, health and correspondence".

Lord Wakeham said intrusion could only be justified on the grounds of public interest — which includes detecting or exposing crime or serious misdemeanour, protecting public health and safety, or preventing the public from being misled.

The Sun's political editor, Trevor Kavanagh, yesterday dismissed suggestions that the paper was "gay bashing". Mr Kavanagh said: "The story was making the point that there is an above average number of homosexuals in the Cabinet, and that they have been exposed in the space of two weeks.

Referring to the use of the word "mafia" he said: "In any circle where there is secrecy, like the Freemasons, there is a risk that it will become a self-interested party and that's what we have to guard against. In a literal sense, the word 'mafia' is a perfectly acceptable expression in this context."

Criticism of the PCC and the tabloid press was led by the deputy prime minister John Prescott, the party chairman Clive Soley and the former Tory chancellor, Lord Lamont. But Tony Blair's official spokesman said: "The Government's view on privacy issues has not changed. We favour the self-regulatory approach."

Mr Prescott accused some newspapers of acting as "judge, jury and executioner". He backed a move by Mr Soley to refer the issue to the PCC.

Mr Soley said on BBC Radio 4 that newspaper editors habitually breached the voluntary code. "My challenge to the PCC is this — either make the code work at least by getting on the phone to the editors and challenging them to justify what they are doing or, alternatively, be honest, rip up the code and say it doesn't work."

In a letter to Lord Wakeham, Lord Lamont said it seemed "very doubtful" that there was any public interest in the reports."

However, a PCC spokesman said third party complainants, of which there had been half a dozen about the Brown affair, could not be accepted.

The farming community also expressed support for Mr Brown. Anthony Gibson, regional director of the NFU, said farmers in the South-west were not in the least bit concerned about ministers' private lives. "I think it would be a great shame if this silly nonsense were to distract attention from the fact that agriculture is going through its worst crisis in 60 years.

"He has made a very good start as a minister. He does seem to have a very good grasp of the problems."



Nick Brown, the Agriculture Minister, meets the press during his visit to a Devon farm yesterday PHOTOGRAPH: MARC HILL

'Everyone is entitled to respect for his or her private and family life, home [and] health

Press Complaints Commission code of practice



How the Sun followed up the story on Monday

How the Sun's hitmen turned on 'gay mafia'

Nick Hopkins on the trail of a story that exposed an identity crisis in tabloid's attitude to homosexuals

IN MANY ways, it was vintage Sun. A provocative front page followed by indignation when the article caused offence.

But the Sun is not rampantly homophobic, said one of the paper's executives yesterday, as he justified the headline Tell Us the Truth Tony ... Are We Being Run by a Gay Mafia? In fact, the executive said: "We are quite libertarian compared to the old days."

The bullishness could not hide what appears to have been a bewildering change of policy by the tabloid towards homosexuals, or mask the intrigue which led to the Sun's sister paper, the News of the World, "outing" the Agriculture Minister, Nick Brown, on Sunday.

It doesn't take a conspiracy theorist to link the two, and talk at Westminster yesterday turned to how News International had "outed" itself over the weekend. "Definitely anti-gay," mused the editor of a rival tabloid.

And no wonder Mr Brown felt aggrieved. The News of the World apparently intended to "out" him before the last election.

A reporter taped him talking on the telephone to his former lover, but — believing he was being entrapped — he did not to say anything incriminating, and the recording has been gathering dust ever since.

When Ron Davies resigned two weeks ago, the Sun professed a new liberalism towards gay men and women.

It did this in typically robust fashion, challenging Peter Mandelson to admit his homosexuality in the aftermath of Matthew Parris's outing of him on BBC2's Newsnight.

"The Sun knows that Mandelson has struggled with this for many years," an editorial sympathised. "The fact is: Mandelson is gay. He also has a brilliant mind. And it is also true that times have changed. The British people will not turn on Mandelson because he is gay. We say to Mandelson: Tell the Truth. You will win respect for your honesty."

But it followed this with a series of distasteful articles which, even allowing for the Sun's cheekiness, appeared to show a McCarthy-esque zeal to smoke out homosexuality in high office.

"OUTED" screamed the headline last Tuesday, with pictures of the Chancellor, Gordon Brown, and Mr Mandelson. But this was a story about Mr Blair's top ministers who had "sensationally come out of the closet and admitted they are a couple of raving euro fanatics".

"Beeb Bosses ban jokes on Gay Mandy," read another headline.

The innuendo was hardly subliminal and seemed to fly in the face of the Sun's new high-mindedness.

The change was completed yesterday, but not before the News of the World had humiliated Mr Brown.

How the paper ended up outing him is revealing in itself. Everyone at Westminster, including Mr Brown, knew the paper was gunning for him.

But try as they might, News of the World reporters did not have enough proof to run the story, or justify doing so. The tape did not prove anything, and photographers camped outside Mr Brown's house drew a blank.

In desperation, the paper called Downing Street's bluff and demanded to know if Mr Brown was gay, alluding to evidence that it did not possess.

"The fact that they got a reply which was a full admission to his homosexuality came as a complete surprise," confided a source at News International. "They were angling and they got lucky."

The paper did not explain why it had felt the need to expose Mr Brown, and Phil Hall, the editor, was not allowed to elaborate yesterday. "He won't be saying anything," said a spokeswoman.

It was left to the Sun to push the story forward.

There appears to have been concern among staff at the Sun that its cosying up to Peter Mandelson might have backfired with traditional readers.

The "gay mafia" theory was one that had bounced around editorial conferences earlier in the week, and the News of the World's outing of Mr Brown was an ideal platform.

Chris Roycroft Davis, the chief leader writer, started putting the piece together on Sunday afternoon, and David Yelland, his editor, just back from a two day think-tank in Dublin, read the piece and approved it.

Trevor Kavanagh, the Sun's political editor, was telephoned on his day off to provide the two-page spread inside. His enthusiasm for the project was important.

Insiders at Westminster said that Mr Kavanagh has long suspected that there is a network of homosexuals looking after each other's interests in the corridors of power.

Both he and the Sun vehemently denied gratuitous gay-bashing yesterday, insisting that the story reflected genuine concern that there could be "a closed world of men with mutual self-interest" in the heart of government.

No matter that the four gay members of the Cabinet, Ron Davies, Chris Smith, Nick Brown and Peter Mandelson, are the least likely cabal.

"Absolutely preposterous," said one lobby correspondent.

Piers Morgan, the editor of the Mirror, had reason to gloat. "If I was a Sun reader I would be completely mystified about the paper's attitude towards homosexuals.

"I suspect that many Sun readers are homophobic, but a serious newspaper would be brave enough to ignore them.

"The Sun is pandering to the lowest common denominator."

Strange though it seems, sources at News International confided that far from being outraged by the behaviour of Murdoch's papers, Alastair Campbell, the Prime Minister's press secretary, had been supportive of their coverage.

"He doesn't think we're gay bashing," insisted a News International executive.

"I can assure you, this won't be going to the Press Complaints Commission."



How the News of the World broke the story on Sunday

Voters against lower gay age of consent

BRITISH acceptance of homosexuality does not extend to support for reducing the gay age of consent from 18 to 16, according to the findings of today's Guardian/ICM opinion poll, writes Alan Travis.

The move to equality in the age of consent for gay and heterosexual sex is expected to be overwhelmingly endorsed again by MPs in a new vote before Christmas but public opinion is still overwhelmingly hostile to the idea by 69 per cent to 26 per cent.

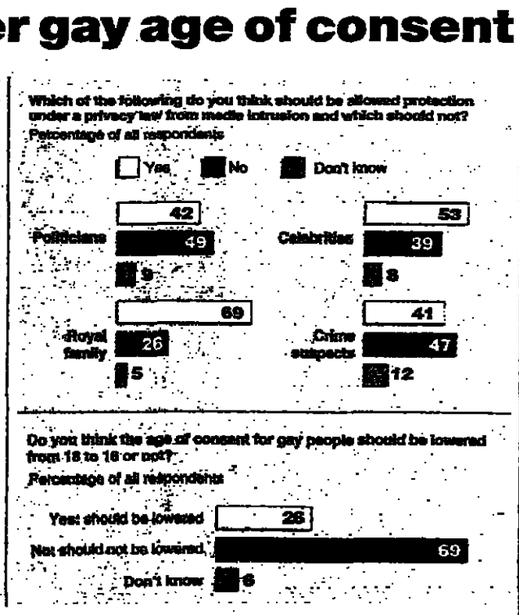
The attempt earlier this year to reduce the legal age for gay sex failed when it ran into hostile opposition in the House of Lords and was dropped to ensure the Government's flagship Crime and Disorder Act reached the statute book.

The ICM results show that gay equality campaigners were right to pitch their appeal to MPs by asking them to take a stand to "lead" public opinion on the issue. Opposition to further reform runs at around two-to-one across the age, social class and gender spectrums.

The poll also shows that the Ron Davies affair has apparently failed to have any impact on the Government's standing among voters. Indeed, the main casualties this month are the Conservatives who are down 2 per cent.

The November ICM poll puts Labour on 51 per cent (no change); Conservatives 27 per cent (down two); the Liberal Democrats 17 per cent (up two); and Others on 5 per cent (no change) leaving the Government with a 24-point lead.

The results show that despite the first major involuntary exit from the Cabinet and the continuing signs of economic downturn, Tony Blair's relationship with voters remains happy and stable.



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Through knowledge comes control.

I knew there was going to be something strange about this wedding when I arrived at the register office and saw a large banner outside saying: "Michael and Susan '98: Towards The New Millennium In A Partnership Of Excellence."
Armando Iannucci — column inches

G2 page 9

Prince's biographer tells of hate campaign

Vikram Dodd

PENNY JUNOR, author of a controversial book about the Prince of Wales, yesterday said devotees of Princess Diana were waging a hate campaign against her.

Ms Junor, whose book Charles: Victim or Villain attacks Diana, said she had been forced to hire a bodyguard because of the threats.

She revealed that hate letters had been sent to her home, calling her a bitch and "a royal arse-licker". In one incident a Diana fan had tried to storm Ms Junor's box at the Royal Albert Hall, and there had been other attempts to confront her in public.

Speaking on the day her biography of Prince Charles was published, Ms Junor said: "I had a number of very unpleasant letters calling me all sorts of names and one even wishing the worst possible fortune to me and my children.

> 'One letter wished the worst possible fortune to me and my children'

"There are extremists out there, people who have become so attached to Diana that they can not bear to believe she might have been a human being. This, it seems, they are trying to take out on me."

Ms Junor claimed Prince Charles's aides had "given the nod" to her book which alleges Diana made death threats against Camilla Parker Bowles and had committed adultery before the prince.

Ms Junor said: "Diana was a tremendous and very capable person who did an awful lot that was wonderful. She had tremendous wit and vitality. But there was another side to her that no one has dared to discuss and that was a damaged and unwell woman who brought her marriage into the public domain.

"What I wanted to do was to finally inject some balance into the account that Diana gave because the prince has never, never chosen to speak out about the very damaging things said about him."

Ms Junor also claimed Diana made Mrs Parker Bowles a scapegoat for her own unhappiness. "I think she [Diana] was not a well woman, indeed she was a troubled woman. And she was trying to blame her unhappiness on somebody in those later years. She wanted an explanation and she chose Camilla."

Prince Charles flew back yesterday from the Balkans to face fresh allegations of division between his officials and those of the Queen.

A BBC Panorama programme last night claimed his aides felt "frustration" that there are no plans to devolve more of the Queen's duties to Charles as she gets older. An official in the prince's office told the BBC: "We're just never asked to do more of the duties normally carried out by the Queen."

The prince's relationship with his mother has come under renewed scrutiny since an ITV programme on Sunday alleged he would be "privately delighted" if the Queen abdicated because he fears she is too old to modernise the monarchy. The claim was vigorously denied by Charles.

The BBC programme, one of several marking the prince's 50th birthday on Saturday, was partly based on a one hour off-camera conversation he had with a Panorama reporter.

The documentary supported the idea that the Queen opposes the prince's relationship with Mrs Parker Bowles, and it also emerged that Charles sees no need to further clarify his relationship with her.

The prince is said to be "exasperated" at the public focus on his relationship with Mrs Parker Bowles and to believe there should be a "privacy zone" for the royal family.

There was a sliver of good news for the prince yesteday. An opinion poll showed the public warming to his relationship with Mrs Parker Bowles, though eight out of 10 people oppose her becoming Queen. The poll, conducted by Mori for GMTV, found 67 per cent of people want the Queen to continue her reign for the rest of her life.



Artist Bridget Riley with her Movement in Squares, part of her biggest retrospective in 25 years, showing at the Abbot Hall Gallery, in Kendal, Cumbria PHOTOGRAPH: DON McPHEE

Academic hanged himself in front of his partner

A DEPRESSED university professor hanged himself in front of his horrified girlfriend after being sacked for plagiarising a student's work, Birmingham coroner's court heard yesterday.

Ian Connell "walked into" a makeshift noose at his home after telling his partner: "I've got something to show you", the inquest was told.

The 49-year-old academic died almost immediately.

Suzanne Orsler, his partner, said he felt he had been "left high and dry" after losing his position at Wolverhampton university.

He hanged himself with a wooden-handled skipping rope at their home in Kings Heath, Birmingham, in June, seven weeks after losing his job, she said.

She had followed him to his office in the attic. "I was just a couple of steps behind him. I didn't really realise what was happening. He looked really strange and then I saw something around his neck."

Miss Orsler, aged 36, Dr Connell's partner for 14 years, said she tried in vain to lift his 14-stone frame from the noose.

She said the Glasgow-born academic, who had also lectured at Coventry university, was depressed at losing his post and income and had had trouble sleeping.

Miss Orsler, who said no suicide note was found, added that it appeared he had just walked into the noose as he entered the room.

Detective Sergeant Peter Reader, of West Midlands police, said it was possible the academic "wanted to frighten" his partner. The death was not suspicious.

Pathologist Peter Acland said the professor died "almost instantaneously" of heart failure caused by sudden pressure on the neck. He had no drugs or alcohol in his body.

Anthony Lee, clerk to the board of governors at Wolverhampton university, said the professor had been at the university since 1989.

Mr Lee confirmed that Dr Connell had been placed under investigation for an "academic misdemeanour" in January and dismissed at a disciplinary hearing in March.

An appeal by Dr Connell, who had a chair in communications studies, failed in May, Mr Lee added.

Recording an open verdict, the coroner, Richard Whittington, said it was not possible to rule whether the death was suicide or an accident.

Dr Whittington said the sacking would have been a "devastating experience" for Dr Connell.

The coroner added that there was insufficient evidence to decide if Dr Connell intended to take his own life or to show his girlfriend how deeply he felt about his problems.

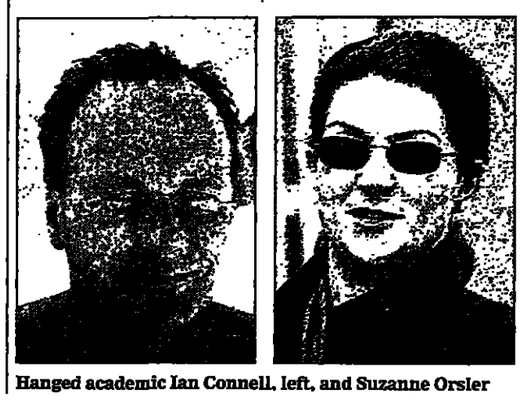
The university is understood to have called the disciplinary hearing after a student made an allegation that Dr Connell copied his work.

After the hearing, Dr Connell's son Liam, aged 29, said the family had withdrawn an application to an industrial tribunal for unfair dismissal against the university.

He said: "This follows an agreement by the university to determine what lessons may be learned in the light of Dr Connell's tragic death and to take any appropriate action.

"The university has also agreed to meet with the family to discuss their concerns about his dismissal. From the beginning it was those concerns which motivated the decision to claim unfair dismissal and, in the light of these agreements, the family can see no further advantage in following this path.

"The family would ask that Ian be remembered for his genuine contribution as a scholar in the field of media and communications."



Hanged academic Ian Connell, left, and Suzanne Orsler

Woman's finger bitten to tendon as gang steals her diamond ring

Sarah Hall

A 64-year-old woman had her finger almost bitten off when a three-strong gang wrenched an £8,000 ring from her outside the Savoy Hotel in central London.

The thieves accosted the unnamed woman of St John's Wood, north London, as she stepped from her BMW to attend an evening function.

When she refused to handover the diamond and sapphire ring, one grabbed her arms, one her legs, and the third, her hand. The third man then bit her finger down to the tendon before seizing the gem and running over Waterloo Bridge.

The woman, who was said by police to be greatly shocked and distressed, was taken by ambulance for stitches at St Thomas's hospital. . The teethmarks are so severe, she may need plastic surgery to mask the injury.

The attack occurred on Friday evening outside the rear entrance of the Savoy as she arrived for an Arab Womens' Association dinner and fashion show, organised for some 220 people.

As she was grasped, a female friend sprayed the attackers with an illegal "pepper spray". Banqueting staff also tried to intervene.

Yesterday, as police appealed for witnesses, they criticised her friend's behaviour. "Possession of pepper spray is a criminal offence. While we recognise her bravery our advice is not to confront criminals but to alert police immediately after the offence. To attempt to tackle suspects may leave a member of the public open to assault and injury," said a Scotland Yard spokesperson.

They believe the gang — who may have been caught on the hotel's security cameras — had targeted those attending the function.

The Savoy said it had stepped up security. "This occurred in a public area, which isn't our responsibility, but we are obviously concerned and extra security has been laid on," said the general manager Michael Shepherd.

Murder case GP expected to face another 2 charges

David Ward

A FAMILY doctor who will appear in court today accused of the murder of four of his patients is expected to be charged with two more killings later this week.

The new charges follow post mortems on Ivy Lomas, aged 63, and Marie Quinn, 67, which were exhumed last month from a cemetery in Hyde, Greater Manchester.

Both women were patients of Harold Shipman of Mottram, Greater Manchester, at his surgery in Hyde.

Dr Shipman, aged 52, signed the death certificates of both women. He gave the cause of death of Mrs Lomas, who died in his surgery on May 29 last year, as coronary thrombosis, ischaemic heart disease, chronic obstructive airway disease and smoking.

He certified that Mrs Quinn died on November 24 last year of a cerebrovascular accident, arteriosclerosis, hypertension and scleroderma.

Mrs Lomas, the widow of an engineer, lived in a terrace house in Hyde for more than 30 years. She is survived by a son and daughter.

Mrs Quinn, also a widow, was found dead at her home in Hyde.

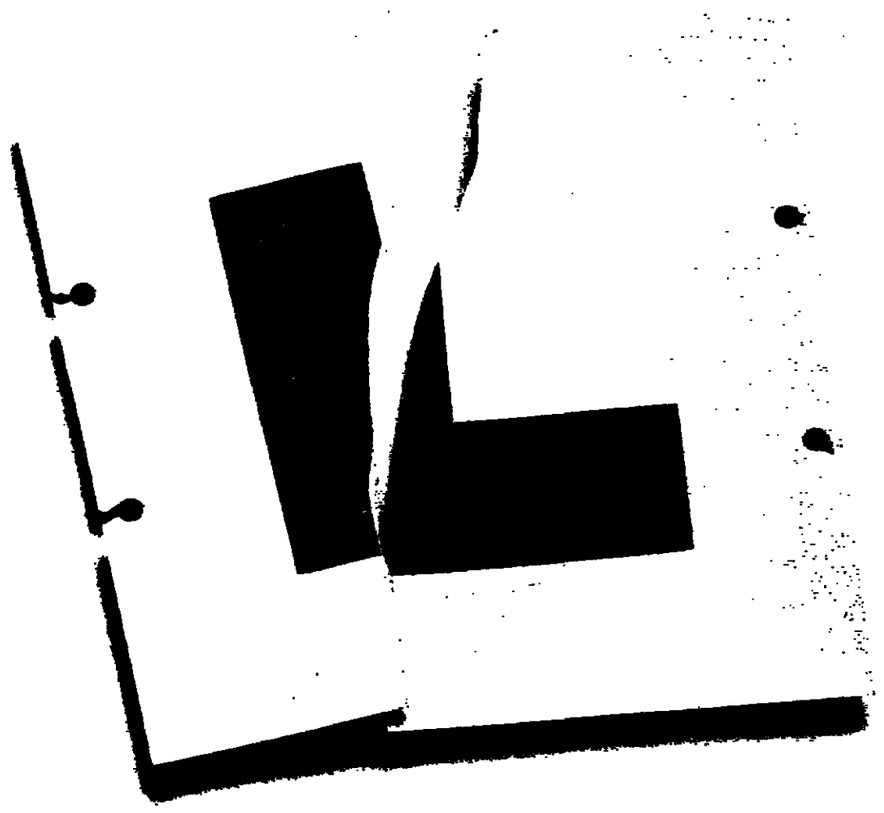
She had been a food process worker but had become a charity worker and supporter of St Paul's Roman Catholic church.

Dr Shipman was arrested in September and charged with the murder of Kathleen Grundy, an 81-year-old former mayoress of Hyde, whose body was exhumed in August. He was also accused of obtaining £300,000 in cash and property by forging Mrs Grundy's will and two letters.

He is expected to be committed for trial on these charges today when he appears before Ashton-under-Lyne magistrates.

Last month he was also charged with the murders of Joan Melia, 73, Winifred Mellor, also 73, and Bianka Pomphret, all of Hyde.

Police are believed to be about to exhume the bodies of another three women patients of Dr Shipman.



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Pete Kelly has a collection of classified ads ("Pork Belly Pigs for Sale", or "Free Manure: You Haul"), which he leaves between bricks of cheese in supermarkets.

G2 page 7

هكذا من الاصل

Chief executive of 'world's favourite airline' defiant despite recession fears, fall in business bookings and accusations of bullying

BA profits slump as love affair cools



Keith Harper
Transport Editor

BRITISH Airways may consider itself the world's favourite airline, but the public's love affair with it shows signs of cooling.

Bookings by businessman have fallen away dramatically in the last month contributing to a 10 per cent slump in BA's half-yearly profits down to £385 million. Now management is faced with pruning its global network and abandoning plans for bigger, luxurious jets.

BA is the most profitable airline in the world but recently its image has been tarnished after it was accused of bullying smaller airlines in a price war for low cost carriers. The British public were also angered when the national carrier decided to drop the Union Jack from its livery.

Yesterday, its troubled but defiant chief executive, Bob Ayling, dismissed mounting City criticism of his leadership, saying that it was well positioned to weather the coming global recession.

Mr Ayling's comments came as he announced the 10 per cent drop. Some observers saw in this echoes of the travails of another great British name — Marks and Spencers — which saw profits plummet last week. But BA's management say the airline industry is a different world. Mr Ayling stressed BA had prepared more sensibly than most rivals to deal with the recession by cutting unprofitable routes to the Far East and by ordering smaller jets to bump up profits.

Mr Ayling, a Labour insider who was once considered for Tony Blair's Downing Street policy unit, could be removed in a boardroom coup after a series of blunders. His handling of a strike by cabin crew last year was widely criticised. Staff stayed away, hundreds of flights were cancelled and BA lost more than £100 million. The impact of the damaging strike is also reflected in the figures.

However, yesterday Mr Ayling was in tough-talking mood. "My position is to run BA. That is what I am paid to do. The only pressure I feel is from the market place. The action my entire management team has taken in the past year I believe has put BA in a better position than it would otherwise have been."

Mr Ayling is due to meet his board on Friday, chaired by BA's former chief executive, Lord Marshall. Industry insiders expect him to ride out this meeting, a view which appeared to be confirmed by Lord Marshall's support yesterday for Mr Ayling's strategy. "These results show how the company has benefited from its clear understanding of the key trends in the international airline market," he declared.

Mr Ayling's apparent confidence in BA's product comes at the end of a bad month. Its planned alliance with American Airlines has hit a brick wall, and a sudden fall in first and business class passenger traffic in October produced share jitters in the City.

Some of the low cost carriers that compete with BA on lucrative routes claimed that they were winning some of BA's business passengers on short haul flights to Scotland and Europe. EasyJet, based at Luton, said that its business travellers were up by 50 per cent. A spokesman said the fear of a recession had encouraged small and medium sized firms to trade down.

The market too has been worried about BA's performance and its share price has been bouncing up and down like a yo-yo for the past 12 months. But it has taken a particular beating since the summer, tumbling from 718p in July to a low of 308p in September. It has since recovered to 405p, and was unchanged at that figure when share prices closed last night.

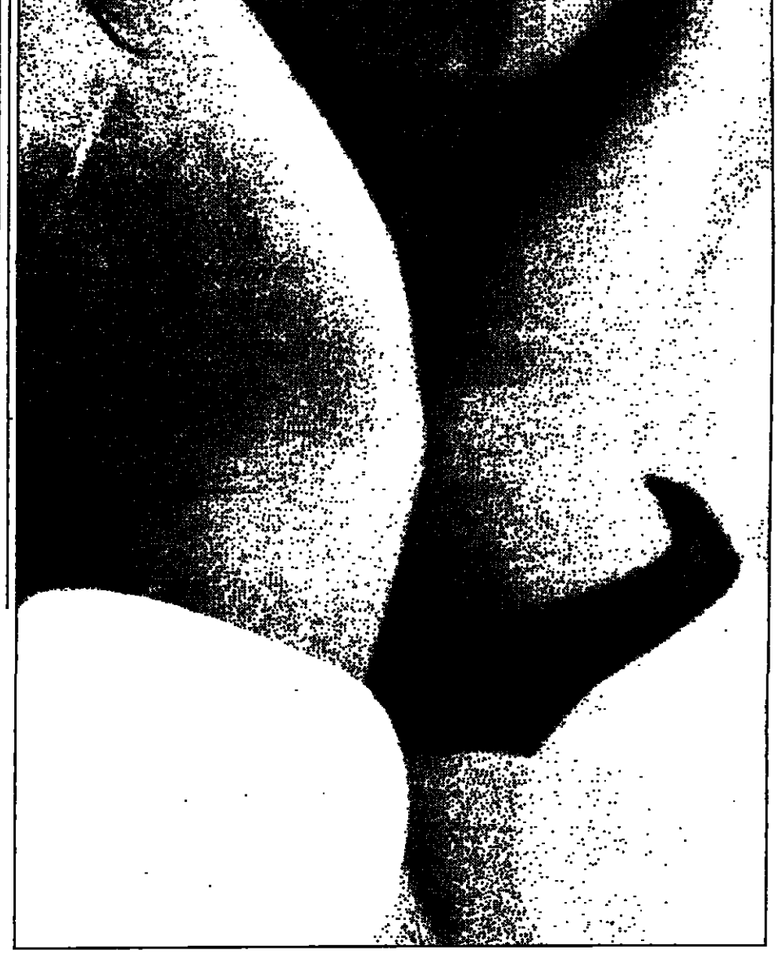
Mr Ayling has put on a tight squeeze on spending to stave off a recession. The airline has made £600 million in savings in the last few years — which Mr Ayling said helped bouy profits.

He pointed out that BA would cut back still further on its extensive long haul network by dropping unprofitable routes. The company was looking "very hard" at a number of marginal routes.

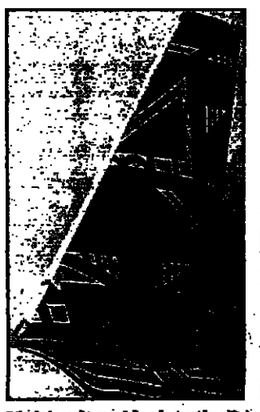
Mr Ayling said: "We can't afford to have growth that is unjustified. Every route must pay for itself."

BA flies to around 160 destinations, including 16 in Africa, 16 in Latin America and the Caribbean, and some 20 in the Asia and Pacific region.

Mr Ayling said that no other European airline had tackled costs and restructured its fleet as BA had done.



Bob Ayling . . . 'the only pressure I feel is from the market place' PHOTOGRAPH: DAVID SILLITOE





Multi-cultural look to the BA tailfin, striking crew and watching managers and an American Airlines plane which should have been part of a tie-up

Four disasters which tarnished image

Livery redesign: New Britain, New British Airways. With an ever-increasing number of non-British passengers, BA opted for a radical redesign of its livery two years ago and dropped the Union Jack from its planes.

Bob Ayling, chief executive, saw the Far East as the world's fastest growing passenger market and wanted to distance the carrier from its colonial past. So the traditional crest colours of red, white and blue were dumped in favour of a mixture of African, Oriental and European folk designs.

However, the "ethnic art" tailfins were universally loathed. Baroness Thatcher voiced her dissent by draping a handkerchief over the tailfin of a model at the design launch. The unions made much of the redesign's £60 million bill when the management was looking to cut costs.

Richard Branson, who revels in his role as BA's nemesis, could not contain his delight. The Virgin Atlantic boss promptly painted Union Jack designs on his airline and started using BA's former slogan: Fly the Flag.

Some older hands at Heathrow retaliated. One air traffic controller reported that pilots raised safety concerns because of the identification problems caused by "non-standard" livery.

Criticism from business passengers forced BA to modify some of its designs. Mr Ayling said that most club class travellers, who provide roughly half the fare revenue on many routes, were unhappy with the multi-cultural, psychedelic look — so the airline said it would make the tailfins "more uniform".

US tie-up: British Airways' much heralded tie-up with American Airlines would have created one of the world's biggest airlines.

It would have seen one airline dominate the lucrative routes between Europe and the US under a new name and colours. Launched in a blaze of publicity in 1996, the deal has yet to get a launch date.

Intensive lobbying from rivals who claimed the deal would have created a monster monopoly and seen fares across the Atlantic shoot up, won over regulators. The European Commission put the price of the deal as 267 landing and take-off slots to rivals — amounting to 55 per cent of BA's market on some trans-atlantic routes.

Mr Ayling has refused to play ball unless the company received cash compensation.

To make matters worse, the US Justice Department described the deal as a non-starter in October. With no end in sight to the wrangling, BA sought to save face by joining a loose partnership of five carriers — Cathay, Qantas, Canadian Airlines and American.

No-frills flights: British Airways launched Go, its own low cost airline, last year to combat the flock of no-frills carriers that have taken to the air in the 1990s. Seen as a long-term, smart commercial move, in the short term it was a public relations disaster.

Smaller rivals raised the spectre of BA's bully boy tactics as a dominant airline knocking out tiny carriers. One of pioneers , EasyJet, told the European Commission in October it objected to the low fares Go was charging on its London-Edinburgh flights.

EasyJet said the £15 one-way price was just a "cheap trick" designed to crush the opposition. It said the "below-cost" fare was subsidised by BA and amounted to unfair competition in breach of EU trade laws. EasyJet has also received permission from the High Court in London for action against BA over its alleged financial support for Go.

The picture painted has proved uncomfortable for the airline, whose image was tarred after it was implicated in a "dirty tricks" campaign against Richard Branson's Virgin Atlantic, and in the collapse of Sir Freddie Laker's super-cheap Skytrain service.

Strike: The most costly mistake by BA this decade. Directors infuriated staff by seeking to cut costs by £1 billion in 1997 when the airline was the most profitable carrier in the world. Cabin crew revolted when management attempted to extract savings — the three-day strike cost BA nearly £125 million.

Passengers were stranded for hours as flights were randomly cancelled. More than 1,000 domestic and European flights and 220 international destinations were wiped from the timetable.

More than 3,500 staff did not turn up for work, the majority opting to be "sick" rather than strike. The action soured relations between workers and bosses. Flight attendants who stayed at home claimed they were bullied by managers and received intimidating phone calls. Staff hit back by defacing pictures of Mr Ayling at the airline's headquarters.

The acrimonious dispute probably also cost Mr Ayling, a Labour supporter, a peerage.

The high-flying former civil servant had been expecting some acknowledgment of his contribution to helping Labour draw up the party's business plan. But Tony Blair thought it unwise to reward Mr Ayling after shareholders and the media judged he had mishandled the dispute.

Randeep Ramesh

TV advertisement uses Oxo model to encourage middle class children to report abuse in the home as part of government initiative

Crackdown on domestic violence



From left, Tessa Jowell, Helen Liddell, and Baroness Jay PHOTOGRAPH: SEAN SMITH

Nicholas Watt
Political Correspondent

MIDDLE CLASS children are to be encouraged to report violence against their mothers and sisters at home as part of an initiative by the Government to tackle domestic abuse across all social classes.

A television advertisement will target middle class children by portraying a domestic scene similar to the successful Oxo advertisements, which turns sour when the father verbally abuses his wife.

In the advertisement, to be screened before the 9.30pm watershed over Christmas, a wife waits at home with her two children for her husband to return from work. When he appears he asks where his dinner is and she tells him it will be a few minutes late because she has been busy. He becomes verbally aggressive, berating his wife for failing to perform her role. The advertisement will be screened in Scotland as a pilot for the rest of Britain, and will contain a helpline for children to phone if a woman in their house has been abused.

Helen Liddell, the Scottish Office minister with responsibility for women's issues, said yesterday that the £600,000 advertisement had been designed to look like the Oxo series because domestic violence occurred across all social classes. Ms Liddell, speaking at the launch of Delivering for Women, the government initiative to improve the lives of women, said the Women's Unit had made the fight against domestic abuse one of its priorities.

Recent research found that one in four women experience violence at home at some point. The 1996 British Crime Survey found 44 per cent of all violent crimes experienced by women in 1995 were domestic.

Ms Liddell said: "Domestic abuse knowns no boundaries of social class or social group. We have to dispel the myth that it only occurs in criminal classes or at specific social levels. A recent survey has shown an appallingly high proportion of young people of both sexes think that violence is sometimes excusable. Domestic abuse is never excusable, we must provide a long term solution to tackle this attitude."

The Women's Unit is also supporting other initiatives to raise awareness among children about domestic violence. Tameside council in Greater Manchester has produced a teaching pack with guidance for school children and an emergency telephone number to call if they witness violence at home.

On the wider issue of improving women's lives, Baroness Jay of Paddington, the Minister for Women, said that the Government was determined to sweep away barriers which prevent women from reaching their potential. She cited a series of initiatives launched by the Government in the past year, including improved child care provision and providing more family friendly employment policies.

At yesterday's launch, Lady Jay announced that the Women's Unit had decided to target teenage girls because research shows they fall behind boys after out-performing them throughout their early years at school. There has been a substantial improvement in girls' performance at GCSEs and A levels, but "then something seems to happen, and they do not fulfil their earlier potential", said Tessa Jowell, the women's minister in the Commons.

"We need to find out the reasons behind this. We also have the highest rate of teenage pregnancies in Europe. There are also concerns about teenagers' body images and eating disorders that sometimes result."

The Government has also decided to examine the issue of women's pay because evidence shows they are still paid considerably less than men. Among full-time employees, women's hourly earnings are only 80 per cent of men's.

Improving women's lives

☐ INVESTIGATION into why teenage girls fall behind boys after out-performing them in their early school years. The former Spice Girl Geri Halliwell and the actress Emma Thompson may be signed up as role models for teenagers.

☐ Analysis into discrepancy between men's and women's income to be published next year. Women in full-time employment are still paid 80 per cent of men's earnings despite increase in number of women working.

☐ Extension of child care provision. In the past year the Government has launched the national child care strategy with the aim of providing high quality child care for all children up to the age of 14.

☐ Improvement in family friendly employment policies. Government will work in partnership with employers' organisations to help men and women fit family commitments around their work.

☐ Tackling domestic abuse across all social classes. Television advertisement will raise awareness of abuse among children and contain a helpline.

☐ Improvement in women's representation. Government is committed to a 50:50 ratio of men and women in public appointments.

President Jacques Chirac led tributes yesterday on the death of Jean Marais, aged 84. **John Henley** in Paris profiles a man who, rejected by drama schools, went on to become one of France's best loved actors – and the lover of surrealist film-maker Jean Cocteau



Jean Marais, pictured last year with a bust of the surrealist artist and film-maker Jean Cocteau, who gave him his first break in the cinema, and below, with French actress Danielle Darrieux in Cocteau's 1947 film Ruy Blas MAIN PHOTOGRAPH: LIONEL CIRONNEAU

France mourns film giant

TRIBUTES poured in yesterday as France learned of the death of Jean Marais, one of the country's best-loved film actors, who got his first break as the lover of the surrealist artist, playwright and film-maker Jean Cocteau but was still treading the boards at the Folies Bergère last year at the age of 83.

"He was an immense actor, an immense artist, but it was his qualities of loyalty, fidelity and generosity which, above and beyond the admiration he inspired in us, made us all love him so much," said President Jacques Chirac.

"Today, a great many French men and women have lost part of their dreams and part of their youth."

Best known outside France for his performance as the hairy and inconsolable beast in the 1945 classic Beauty and the Beast, Marais was taken ill late last year and entered a hospital near Cannes in June, suffering from malnutrition. He died peacefully on Sunday.

Rejected by all France's leading drama schools, Marais nevertheless made 75 films and spent the best part of his cinema career as

> 'Many French men and women have lost part of their dreams and youth'

France's equivalent of Errol Flynn. He later became one of the grand old men of the French theatre, but continued to attract film directors, including Bernardo Bertolucci, who cast him in Stealing Beauty, three years ago.

"He did amazing things on screen and he never trained for them," said Jean-Paul Belmondo. "He made everyone dream with those cloak-and-dagger films. But he was also truly kind. He loved people and he never took himself seriously."

Born in Cherbourg on December 11 1913, the son of a veterinarian and a professional shoplifter, Marais moved to Paris with his mother as a young child. He was a poor student, dropping out of school at the age of 16. He worked as an apprentice photographer before he met Cocteau in 1937.

"It became a friendship that went far beyond the boundaries of the physical," Marais said last year. "He was the only person for whom I would sacrifice my life." Cocteau seems to have been rather more down-to-earth about the affair: "There's been a catastrophe," he reportedly said. "I've fallen in love with you."

Their relationship inspired Cocteau to many plays, films, poems and drawings, and endured until his death in 1963. Theatrical, eccentric and visionary, Cocteau cast the strikingly handsome Marais in his play on the Oedipus story, Oedipe Roi, and the pair made half a dozen films together, including Les Parents Terribles, Orphée, in 1949, and Le Testament d'Orphée in 1960.

But Marais also worked with leading international directors such as Jean Renoir, Luchino Visconti and Abel Gance, and became a major star in France for a long and hugely successful string of blood-and-thunder epics, including the Fantomas series.

Later, as New Wave filmmakers like Jean-Luc Godard and François Truffaut swept him aside, he returned to the stage, playing King Lear, Prospero and major French roles. He published several books and revealed himself to be a talented sculptor.



Poles brace for bitter truths as seal is torn off communist files

Neil Bowdler in Gdynia

ROMAN DRYWA was just eight when he and his mother were frog-marched through a Polish graveyard under swinging lanterns at midnight, 28 years ago, to bury his butchered father.

Two secret policemen had arrived at their home and ordered the mother to come with them. The previous day she had discovered that her 34-year-old husband and 12 others had been killed by gunmen in tanks on a station platform in the early hours of December 1970: one of 44 recorded murders along the Baltic coast that month after protests at food price rises.

Mr Drywa and his mother want to know who pulled the trigger, who gave the order to shoot, and how many were really killed that night. What of the accounts of mass graves?

They hope to find the answers when a public archive of communist-era files, the National Remembrance Institute, opens next January, collating an estimated 75 miles of documentation from 1939 to 1989.

The archive's opening coincides with anti-communist legislation after the election of a Solidarity-led government last year. A new court will investigate public figures for secret police links; another bill aims to purge the courts of those who sent hundreds of political opponents to their deaths.

"It's not about revenge or about putting someone behind bars, especially since the perpetrators are old," says Mr Drywa, now a Solidarity trade union leader in Gdynia. "It's about establishing guilt."

He also wants to know which neighbours spied on him in the 1970s.

He remembers his father lying in an open coffin as families were wheeled in and out that night for night-time funerals away from public glare. "A stream of blood oozed from his mouth. My mother threw herself at the coffin and unbuttoned his pyjamas." His mother, sitting next to him, draws a line from her jugular to her belly to denote the bloodied stitching from a post-mortem.

Whether the archive will live up to the victims' expectations is in question. Jan Rokita, an MP, claims reams of documents were destroyed between July 1989 and January 1990, on the orders of the communist interior minister, General Czeslaw Kiszczak.

"If anyone expects great revelations, they'll be disappointed," he says.

Krzysztof Piesiewicz, a lawyer who defended Soli-



Roman Drywa: 'It's not about revenge but about establishing guilt'

darity activists during martial law in the 1980s, believes the files must be opened, but he will not peek into his. "Do I want to know whether a close friend spied on me?" he asks. "This is dirt which will bring me nothing."

Olaf, a secret police officer for 20 years, admits destroying files from 1984 to 1990.

He says what remains may still destroy the aura surrounding some Solidarity leaders, and that the Catholic Church agreed in 1989–90 to the destruction of secret police files on priests and bishops, for fear of "double-agents" being unmasked. He warns that the archive is "a devil's furnace, a Pandora's box".

For the victims, that may be a price worth paying for the truth.

Striking cultural centre is symbol of island rebirth

Christopher Zinn in New Caledonia

MORE than 70 per cent of New Caledonians have backed an historic referendum to grant the formerly troubled French Pacific territory more autonomy from Paris, before of a final vote is taken on independence.

The decision could also be seen as a vote of confidence in the most symbolic and spectacular structure to be built in the South Pacific since the Sydney Opera House — the Centre Culturel Tjibaou, which opened recently near the territory's capital, Noumea.

The futuristic and traditional structure was a £35 million peace offering from the French government to the Kanak islanders who waged a struggle against settlers between 1984 and 1988 in which almost 50 people died.

The complex, based on tribal buildings and designed by a leading Italian architect, Renzo Piano, was named after the Kanak leader Jean-Marie Tjibaou, who was assassinated in 1989 by separatist extremists after signing a pact to avoid a civil war.

One of the key planks of the reconciliation was the Centre, which was commissioned in 1990 as one of the last major cultural works initiated by President François Mitterand, and the only one outside Paris.

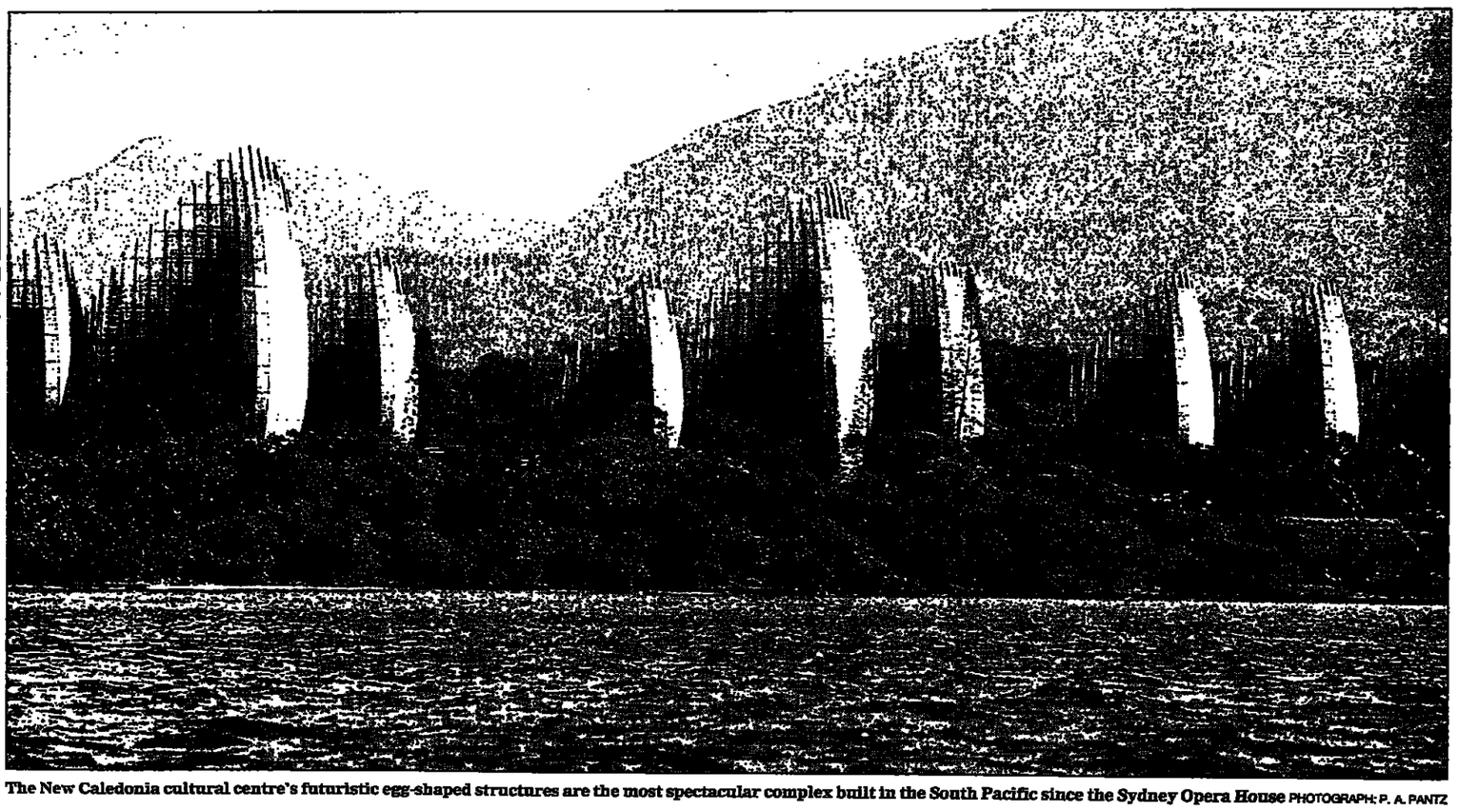
"The Centre has become a reality because people have died for it," said Octave Tonga, the director of the Kanak agency which manages it. "This is not a gift we inherited. It was as a result of a struggle."

Mr Tonga, who was a political activist alongside Tjibaou, explained how the Centre's striking egg-shaped elements and its various theatres and art galleries signified the Kanaks' unfinished struggle for independence.

"The French government understand that as long as the legitimate identity of the people of this land is not taken into account, then nothing sustainable can be done in this land," he said.

The so-called Matignon Accords, which for some of his own people sealed Tjibaou's fate, were renewed in April by the Noumea Accord, and on Sunday the eligible population of 185,000 voted to ratify this and reshape their constitutional future.

But the political history of the 250-mile long, cigar-shaped and nickle-rich main island, 930 miles off the Australian coast, remains complex and a vote on full separation has been postponed for up to 20 years while there is a step-by-step transfer of powers.



The New Caledonia cultural centre's futuristic egg-shaped structures are the most spectacular complex built in the South Pacific since the Sydney Opera House PHOTOGRAPH: P. A. PANTZ

The Kanaks of New Caledonia speak 28 different languages and have seen their traditional culture and population growth stunted by colonisation.

The original accords signed between Tjibaou's pro-independence FLNKS party and the French loyalist RPCR group in 1988 were meant to correct the social and economic dominance over the Kanaks of the Europeans, who represent some 34 per cent of the population.

Sunday's referendum was the start of a 20-year timetable in the transition to what is described as a shared sovereignty.

France will now cede a range of powers to the islands before the final vote.

The Centre stands as a beacon to the Kanaks' aspirations. "We built this Centre as a tool to allow people to understand each other," said Mr Tonga. "We signed the accord of Noumea for all the children who are the future of this country. This tool will give them the means to understand."

Jakarta assembly fuels protests

John Aglionby in Jakarta

THOUSANDS of students demonstrated in Indonesia yesterday in protest against a government assembly that meets today to repeal the authoritarian laws of former President Suharto and introduce new legislation.

Fearing that the People's Consultative Assembly (MPR), which was appointed by Mr Suharto, will make only cosmetic changes to the status quo, the students converged on the parliament building in Jakarta and regional legislatures to demand that legislators listen to their views.

Demonstrators in Jakarta were kept more than a mile from the parliament building by heavily armed soldiers and riot police who have turned the city into a military camp.

The army is afraid that huge demonstrations against the four-day MPR convention could lead to a repeat of the riots in May which led to Mr Suharto's resignation. It has deployed more than 30,000 troops to prevent unrest.

As marksmen kept watch from skyscrapers in the capital, 2,000 students tried to negotiate their way past the tight security cordon. At one point in the three-hour standoff it seemed likely that the students would ram the soldiers and riot police with their buses and trucks, but their leaders eventually restored calm.

"Unlike the government and the army we are not going to use force against our opponents," the student leader Taufik Irwan said.

"The military's attitude shows the government does not trust the people enough to let them act democratically."

Earlier in the day troops scuffled with dozens of student demonstrators near the presidential palace. At least two were carried away injured after being beaten by soldiers.

The MPR is due to abolish several laws, including those that allow only three political parties, give the president extraordinary powers to declare a state of emergency, and prohibit opposition parties campaigning in rural areas.

It is also due to change the electoral system from proportional representation to a mixture of PR and first-past-the-post and set the date for the next general election. The president, B. J. Habibie, has said he wants elections to be held in May or June.

The students also want the MPR to order Mr Suharto's prosecution for political and economic crimes, and the military's representation in legislative bodies, and guarantee free and fair elections.

"We believe that the ruling Golkar party and the military will manipulate the special session to protect itself from the nation's democratic forces," Mr Irwan said.

"That's why we are going to demonstrate every day of the meeting to make sure the common people's voice is heard."

In the last week Golkar, which now faces the prospect of electoral annihilation because of its links to the former dictator, and the politically powerful military have both tried to jump on the reform bandwagon.

Golkar's MPR faction leader, Marzuki Darusman, said his party was now "seriously considering" proposing the prosecution of Mr Suharto for political and economic crimes and was "committing itself to total reform".

Malaysian police chief denies report on anti-Anwar plotters

John Aglionby

WRANGLING about the existence and whereabouts of a mysterious report that allegedly accuses senior Malaysian officials of attempting to smear the country's former deputy prime minister Anwar Ibrahim dominated yesterday's trial of Mr Anwar on sodomy and corruption charges.

The outgoing head of Malaysia's police intelligence unit, Mohamad Said Awang, told a crowded court that an investigation into the allegations that Mr Anwar had committed sodomy with his driver and had an affair with the wife of his former private secretary was stopped after the prime minister, Mahathir Mohamad, publicly rubbished the accusations in August 1997.

Mr Awang said: "We made a suggestion to the prime minister not to continue with the investigation. We waited for his feedback. He made the press statement, so we knew his decision was to close the case."

The prosecution denied defence claims that Mr Awang's department had prepared a second report which named senior government officials involved in a campaign to discredit Mr Anwar.

Mr Awang told the court he could not remember a second report. But a source close to the defence team said after the court adjourned: "Anwar remembers seeing the second report, although he was never allowed to keep a copy of it. We are determined to find it and prove his innocence."

Prosecutors have brought 10 charges against Mr Anwar for the two affairs and for allegedly trying to have them covered up. He pleads innocent and claims he is the victim of a high-level campaign to ruin him.

In an interview in the American news magazine Time yesterday he said Dr Mahathir had trumped up the charges because the prime minister was "drunk with power" and had lost his sanity.

صكذا من الاصل

Short plays down gap on debt relief

Richard Norton-Taylor, and Phil Gunson in La Ceiba

THE controversy surrounding Clare Short's handling of the Central American crisis caused by Hurricane Mitch appeared to deepen yesterday when she repeated her view that Third World debt relief was "irrelevant to coping with the immediate crisis" in Honduras and Nicaragua.

The International Development Secretary rejected Tory claims that she was at odds with Gordon Brown. "The Chancellor and I have announced that we are approaching the International Monetary Fund and World Bank to try to get agreement that post-crisis countries should be treated more flexibly for debt relief," she said.

Ms Short criticised those who have attacked the Government for not proposing a unilateral moratorium on its share of debt, insisting a moratorium required co-operation with other countries funding the IMF.

Yesterday the French government backed Britain's call for an immediate moratorium on debt repayments by countries devastated by Mitch. The prime minister, Lionel Jospin, told a development conference in Lyon that France wanted creditors to speed up debt relief.

The French finance ministry said in a statement yesterday that it would call on other Paris Club creditor countries to suspend debt service for two years and improve loan conditions.

> Short accused her Tory shadow of trying to make cheap points

Ms Short sparked controversy last week when she dismissed calls for immediate debt relief for Honduras and Nicaragua as "misleading" and "irrelevant". Mr Brown struck a different note on Sunday, calling for a new international emergency fund — possibly including a moratorium on debt payments — to help rebuild countries facing a "huge breakdown" as a result of natural disaster.

Ms Short accused Gary Streeter, her Tory shadow, of trying to make "cheap points", saying he appeared not to understand how debt relief worked.

She told the Commons: "In a crisis like this, when the mud slides, your chances of survival depend on people already there in countries who pull you out or not."

The international community should then bring in food and medicine — and Britain, she said, was especially good at that. "The immediate step that is needed is the effort to prevent cholera and hunger."

The Government was supporting measures to prevent the crisis from worsening, Ms Short said.

More than £254,000 had been donated for food and health in Honduras and £82,585 for Nicaragua. The Government had given the Red Cross Regional Appeal £200,000 and made available HMS Ocean and other Royal Navy ships with helicopters, technicians and supplies.

More than 400 Royal Marines will today join the emergency relief operation in Honduras and Nicaragua, the captain of HMS Ocean, Bob Turner, said last night.

In a telephone interview from his ship off the east coast of Nicaragua, Captain Turner said British Sea King, Lynx and Gazelle helicopters had made dawn-to-dusk reconnaissance flights inland.

> 'We are now pumping in the Marines and medical teams'

"We are now pumping in the Marines and medical teams who will be the lead elements bringing in supplies, and most importantly fresh water," Capt Turner said.

In the next few days they will help distribute food, working closely with local authorities and aid agencies.

Most of the Royal Marines are from 45 Commando. A British embassy source said several hundred men from 12 company, Royal Marines, were on jungle training exercises in the former British territory of Belize when the hurricane hit.

"The idea is to get to remote places the local relief teams haven't been able to reach," the vice-consul, Rufus Legge, said. "The primary aim is search and rescue, although they are taking food and water to villages that are in need of them."

No roads connect the province of Gracias a Dios, where the Mosquitia region is located, with the rest of the country. Many of the sparse population are Miskito indians who live by hunting and fishing, but rice and plantains, the staple crops, have been 90 per cent obliterated, according to unconfirmed sources.

The embassy confirmed aid agency reports that the Marines were finding few instances of death or injury. "Conditions weren't nearly so bad as they had feared," Mr Legge said.

Winds of change, page 8





THEN: The plantations employed thousands of Hondurans NOW: Banana workers in the Aguán Valley can only be reached by helicopter PHOTOGRAPHS: ALAIN LE GARSMEUR and VICTOR CAIVANO

First they lost their homes. Now banana workers in Honduras must face life without jobs

Phil Gunson in La Ceiba and Julian Borger in Washington

AT LEAST 16,000 banana workers in Honduras are facing a further catastrophe in the wake of Hurricane Mitch — they are likely to be laid off indefinitely on a fraction of their already low pay.

The workers, thousands of whom have been made homeless by the hurricane and are relying on emergency food aid, have been told by their employer, Standard Fruit, that the crop has been so badly damaged that Honduras may not export another banana until 2000, making layoffs inevitable.

The workers' unions say Standard is exaggerating the scale of the economic disaster. Some agricultural experts say the floods may have had side-effects beneficial to company, such as improving soil quality.

Standard's parent company, Dole Food, a transnational fruit corporation based in Westlake, California, is one of the two big foreign firms that have dominated the Honduran banana industry for 100 years. Its controlling share is owned by David Murdoch.

The other is Tela Railroad, now a subsidiary of Chiquita Brands, which is also American-owned.

Earlier this century the two companies were so powerful that the occupancy of the Honduran presidency depended on which of them had bought more political influence, giving the country the dubious distinction of being the first "banana republic".

Although much less powerful than they once were, Standard and Tela retain considerable influence over government policy. When Carlos Flores took over the presidency less than a year ago, he slashed the already low export tax on bananas while raising VAT from 7 to 12 per cent.

Mr Medina says working conditions have been steadily worsening.

"Basic pay is 57 lempiras [about £2.50] a day," he said.

Standard and the union, Sutrasfco,were due to meet yesterday to discuss the company's terms for the indefinite lay-off. Mr Medina admitted that the union had a weak hand.

A company spokesman, Francisco Romero-Baca, said Standard had not assessed the damage to its plantations in financial terms but 77 per cent of the crop was "damaged", probably irreparably.

The company's infrastructure, including packing plants and irrigation systems, had also been severely damaged, he said, and the transport of crops to port would be impeded by the widespread destruction of roads and bridges.

In a financial statement earlier this week the company said the hurricane had caused it losses of up to $70 million in Central America, and a quarter of its worldwide production had been lost.

Chiquita Brands, Standard's rival, said its 17,000-acres of plantation had been almost totally devastated. Joe Hagin, the company's spokesman at its headquarters in Cincinnati, Ohio, said more than 7,000 workers had been suspended but would continue to receive full pay for at least three months.

He said a long-term package for workers would include free housing and medical care.

Standard's redundancies could last for more than a year. Industry analysts said the Honduran banana industry was unlikely to resume anything like full production until 2000.

"There would be no point restoring the plantations if we cannot export because there are no roads," Dr Romero-Baca told reporters.

"We have been asking the company for a helicopter to take us to see our people, but it hasn't been possible," Mr Medina said. The Sula and Aguán valleys in northern Honduras, where the bananas are grown, were among the areas worst affected.

"The company is insured, but the workers aren't," he said. "They have lost everything, all their possessions. How can the company expect us to survive for a year without eating?"

"Just take out a map and look at where the banana companies are," said a United Nations environmental consultant. "They have a reason for being there despite the floods, and the reason is that they fertilise the soil, just like in the Nile delta."

Soil specialists estimate the value of the nutrients dumped by the floods on plantations owned by Tela at up to £2.6 million.

Clinton poised for EU trade war

THE United States was set last night to launch the biggest trade war against Europe for more than a decade, an escalation of its long running campaign against the European Union's trade preference for bananas grown in former African and Caribbean colonies, *writes Stephen Bates in Brussels.*

The move, which European Union officials believe is encouraged by political contributions to the Democratic Party by Chiquita, the US banana-exporting multinational, is likely to hit British and French products in particular, including wine, cheese and whisky. European officials are discussing retaliation.

The EU argues that preferential treatment for small-scale banana producers in French and British former Caribbean colonies, such as the Windward Islands, preserves their economies and stops farmers from growing drugs instead.

Despite the action, Chiquita has won nearly 75 per cent of the EU market.

Kurdish rebels chased into Iraq

Chris Morris in Ankara

THOUSANDS of Turkish troops were reported to have pushed deep into Kurdish-controlled northern Iraq yesterday in pursuit of members of the Turkish Kurd rebel movement, the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK).

The Baghdad government, which lost control of the region after the Gulf war of 1991, condemned what it called an invasion. It demanded that the Turkish forces leave immediately, pointing out that the operation coincided with threats from the United States in the dispute over Baghdad's refusal to co-operate with United Nations weapons inspectors.

Up to 15,000 Turkish troops and hundreds of armoured vehicles are reported to be involved in the search for the rebels, supported by F-16 fighter-plane attacks on suspected PKK positions. It may be the last big operation in the region before the winter.

The Turkish defence minister, Ismet Sezgin, admitted on Sunday that an operation was under way,saying that troops were chasing about 500 PKK members who were forced to leave their bases in Syria last month.

The Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP), an Iraqi Kurdish group fighting alongside the Turkish forces, says the PKK has not crossed directly from Syria into the territory it controls. KDP officials say the PKK is being helped by Iraqi troops farther south.

In the past year the PKK has increased its contacts with Saddam Hussein's regime and now has several offices in Iraqi-controlled territory. The KDP has promised to stop the PKK re-establishing a significant power base in their region but may find it difficult if Baghdad is helping the rebels.

The instability in northern Iraq has prompted frequent large-scale Turkish incursions, and the Turkish army now keeps a permanent force on the Iraqi side of the border to try to prevent PKK infiltration into Turkey.

Arab states protest bitterly about double standards, pointing out — with good reason — that Turkey is violating international law.

But the West, led by the US and Britain, needs Ankara's co-operation in its campaign to isolate President Saddam and is prepared to turn a blind eye to the incursions.

News in brief

EU food aid for Russia

EUROPEAN foreign ministers last night backed a plan to give Russia £300 million in emergency food aid this winter, *writes Martin Walker in Brussels.*

The food aid, to be sold at Russian markets, is to include wheat, rice, milk powder and beef. And, after strong representations from French farmers in Brittany who have seen pork prices fall by half since June because of the collapse of Asian markets, the aid will include pork.

"It is important that we approach this as a matter of what Russia needs, rather than what we want to provide," Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, said.

Little of the aid is expected to arrive until early next year, when the food crisis is expected to be at its worst, accoding to satellite surveys of crops.

Court bites back at press

THE editor of the Belgrade daily Dnevni Telegraf vowed to continue publishing yesterday despite a second large fine under Serbia's new media law.

A court ruled that the paper had endangered national security and incited civil strife by publishing an advertisment showing a clenched fist and calling on readers to "bite the system". "It will be too late if someone dies of hunger, if they start shooting people in the streets," the advert said. "This is not a system — this is a disease. Resistance!"

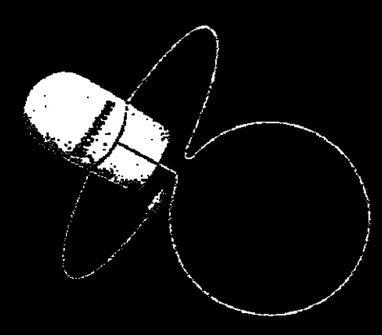
Magistrates fined the newspaper's publishing company £48,000 and Telegraf's editor, Dragan Novakovic, £24,000 on Sunday, a day after the paper reappeared on Belgrade newsstands following an earlier fine under the law passed by the Serbian parliament on October 20. — *Reuters, Belgrade.*

Revolt pays for Chavez

A LEFTWING coalition led by a former coup leader is the leading force in Venezuela's new congress, initial results showed yesterday — a setback for the two main parties.

With 67 per cent of Sunday's votes counted, Hugo Chavez's Patriotic Pole coalition won 34 per cent of congressional seats. The center-left Democratic Action Party won 22 per cent, and the conservative Copei Party 11 per cent. Mr Chavez, aged 44, is tipped to win the December 6 presidential poll. — *AP, Caracas.*

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Comment

Diary

Matthew Norman

WITH her remarriage to a barrister called Charlie imminent, Express editor Rizla Rosie Boycott has put her house in Bayswater on the market. I ring the delectable doyenne of dope to ask if she's noticed an appalling smell that might be making it a bit difficult to sell? No, she says. Not the kind of aroma, let us say, that might come from a hidden box of fishfingers? Not at all, she says, "but I do have seven dogs." Two minutes later, a colleague rings back. Rosie is intrigued, he says, having just found a box of decomposing fishfingers buried beneath her bath. Utterly mystified, she even suspected a party guest of carelessness. This theory strikes me as a long shot: even in Rizla's wildest days, fishfinger-hiding sounds like an unlikely party pursuit. The smart money might be on either an estate agent insider, angered by her recent scathing attack on the profession for lax security in employing male staff; or a disgruntled former employee posing as a prospective house-buyer to seek a little vengeance.

AT the Commonwealth Club in London, a conference called Better For Women, Better For All was held yesterday to launch the Women's Unit's latest campaign. All the usual suspects — Tessa Jowell, Baroness Jay and the one-time Maxwell handmaiden Helen Liddell — stood before the cameras, and all went well until the lighting set-up got too close to the low ceiling and activated the smoke detector. Sprinkler chaos ensued, and the ladies were soaked. "It was more like a wet T-shirt competition," says one photographer. Phwoooar, indeed.

I AM captivated by recollections of Frank Johnson in Woodrow Wyatt's journals. Nowadays, Frank looks after all the lunatics in the Spectator, which (in the very loosest sense of the word) he edits, but once he had his eye on a larger prize. In 1987, while at the Times, Frank dreamt of ousting that fey Glaswegian gentleman, Charlie Wilson, and taking over as editor. When told of this ambition, Woody relayed it to Rupert Murdoch, who at first seemed interested, but quickly concluded that Frank could "never organise a newspaper or edit it". Whether this change of heart had anything to do with News International MD Bruce Matthews's opinion of Frank as "a shit," the old boy's journals don't say. However they do recall Frank's previous unfortunate suggestion that Matthews should be sacked for allowing the News of the World to run the story about Jeffrey Archer and the prostitute.

SPEAKING of Rupert, it's good to see him coming out of his shell with an interview, to be screened on Channel 4 on Saturday week, in which he disdains any notion of retiring and reflects that he has "made a worthwhile contribution to the world." How true. Not everyone agrees, however, and there are outstanding arrest warrants from the Indian government over alleged obscenities broadcast on his Star satellite network. In the wake of the Pinochet saga, an idea suggests itself. Anyone who should see Rupert in central London next time he's in town to give his monthly instructions to Mr Tony, should take him by the arm — firmly but kindly — and march him into the Indian High Commission on the Aldwych. He will then be on Indian soil, and can be flown to India to face justice without the need for extradition proceedings.

THE Times's City Diary has received a baffling call from Leadbetter PR on behalf of its client Laphroaig, the whisky distillers. Laphroaig wanted to know if they would print the whisky logo on their column in return for half a case of malt whisky on St Andrew's Day. Certainly not, replied my scandalised so-called rival, that's the most ridiculous thing we've ever heard, and quite beyond belief. "Well," said the PR firm, wounded at the rebuff, "the Guardian Diary did it". And might well do again, for another six bottles.



What Hague should heed from the neutering of Newt: right is wrong

Hugo Young



THE fall of Newt Gingrich has some resemblances to the collapse of the Berlin Wall. It marks the end of a grand political illusion. Speaker Gingrich may not embody quite the 70 years it took for communism to be destroyed and, with it, socialism to lose its credibility as the platform of the democratic Left. He spans merely a decade, at the *fin* of the conservative *siecle*. But his departure, under pressure from his party, reverberates beyond Capitol Hill.

It's the end of an era: a short era, but an era all the same. It writes the death warrant of radical rightism as a mainstream project. Since that project always was peculiarly Anglo-Saxon, nobody should be more attentive to Newt's fate than the British Conservative Party.

After he became famous, in 1994, his office on the Hill was a place of pilgrimage for the British Right. Editors jostled to touch the hem of his pinstripes. The merest fugitive sentence from this over-extended prophet was enough to fuel entire columns of reflection. A proxy Thatcher appeared to have been bestowed on the then sadly Thatcher-free world.

Gingrich's capture of the Congress for the Republican Party made him the one incontestable hero of moral revivalists and free market economists. He was also clever and unorthodox. A bit of an original: food for popular, as well as righteous, fundamentalism, which now entered its inheritance.

Newt failed last week, and then quit, partly out of sheer ineptitude. He was often outwitted by the Clinton people even when he held the most cards. He had a bad case of political hubris, seldom understanding the dangers he was courting. In the end, nemesis descended. But there was also a more profound failure. The great victory of 1994 did not take root in the public mind, and the most flagrant sex scandal in modern presidential history failed to efface the unpopularity of the Gingrich agenda.

This had its day four years ago. There was a time when America seemed capable of seduction by an anti-tax, anti-government, anti-ethnic, anti-abortion, anti-foreigner, anti-libertarian collection of political tyros, often fighting for their first seats in the House.

Newt's Contract with America was so resonant that Tony Blair thought of calling his own 1996 pre-election programme a Contract with Britain, and, though eventually eschewing the label, he has dabbled in contractual language. But even before the 1998 election, Newt's ideology was fading towards compromise, forced to recognise, among other things, that hardly a single black American supported it. Failing to get a popular mandate for Clinton's ouster, he now leaves his party peering through its own miasmas towards the centre ground.

There is no Gingrich in the Tory party. The very mention of his name alongside illuminates the milk-fed inadequacy of William Hague. What marks British Conservatism now is not its strident message, but its utter confusion. Even Michael Foot's Labour Party sparked more cordite in the air, and played its part in bringing the Thatcher Government, before the Falklands War, to the brink of defeat at the hands of another form of politics.

Across most current politics, the present Shadow Cabinet has literally nothing to say that anyone wants to hear. It cannot even decide whether Gordon Brown is spending too much or too little. The nearest it gets to making an impression is futile ranting of the Francis Maude variety, or the whingeing of John Redwood and Michael Howard, who cannot shake off records that make them among the most unpopular men in Britain.

The Tory temptation, however, is clear enough. Though the party is neurotically uncertain what to say at present, its motor-instincts drive it to the right. Its derision of the Government's own hesitation on the matter suggests, for example, that it is boiling up towards a radical attack on welfare programmes. Its hard Thatcherite parliamentary party would welcome that.

In its rhetoric, neo-liberal economics continues to sound easiest. Though some Tories dimly understand that the hegemony of individualistic materialism raised more problems than it solved, they would still vastly prefer to be the party of minimal government. Their hostility to all constitutional reform is driving the party, whatever the leader might prefer, towards root-and-branch defence of the hereditary peerage.

THIS would be an extraordinary error, but not so damaging as Hague's unwary case against the euro. Here we have the closest stance to native Gingrichism: doctrinaire, fundamentalist, defiantly unconsensual, proudly nationalistic and supplying the raw material for out-and-out demagoguery. The Tory line on Europe, while claiming to speak for the long-silenced majority, positions the party, as Gingrich did his, not at the centre but on the edge of the attitudes of the real world. It does so, moreover, against the main rule of pragmatic politics: do not take a one-way bet on an outcome you have no means of controlling. Just as Gingrich was staked to the collapse of Clinton, the Tory party can do nothing but wish for the failure of the euro — an outcome which very many people all over other political systems as well as our own, are striving their utmost to prevent.

Though some of Gingrich's assassins are to his right, far more Republicans begin to learn that populist extremism is a mirage. It had a brief life, but the failure to recognise its hallucinatory powers then lost them two elections. Ronald Reagan changed the norms, it is true. But Clinton said thus far and no further, and the people agreed. The outcome is hardly leftist, but mildly, solidly, centrally progressive, refuting the belief that government should not matter.

The American people, though more available than we are to fundamentalist ideas, do not collectively want them. The right is forced to accept an uncomfortable truism: that Clinton's ownership of the middle can never be met by occupying the extremes.

This is truer of Britain, a country that took to its solitary hard-right government in modern times only when the other side had disintegrated. Marginalising his own fringe is what Blair was about, and will be what post-Gingrich Republicanism has to be about as well. Mr Hague needs to discover a grammar, and then a set of policies, that take him to the centre ground where popular opinion about Europe and just about everything else is located. All governments are centrists now. There's no other place from which to win.

It may seem a tedious platitude. It should be. But you wouldn't believe how many important people choose to reject every lesson of Anglo-Saxon history.

Sexuality is irrelevant. Only vulnerability to blackmail counts

What gay mafia?

Richard Norton-Taylor



THE idea that we are being "run by a gay mafia", as the Sun suggested yesterday under its front-page headline, Tell us the truth, Tony, invites derision. To start with, the four cabinet ministers they are referring to are not political allies by any means.

Nick Brown, a Gordon Brownite, and Peter Mandelson, a root-and-branch Blairite, have been at daggers drawn. There is no love lost between Peter Mandelson and Chris Smith, the soft-left Culture Secretary who is regarded by the Blairites as generally ineffective. Ron Davies is more-or-less old Labour, and certainly not a Blairite.

Politics, cliques, cabals, go hand-in-hand. They always have been and always will. "We have a right to know about secret liaisons which *might* explain why *certain* politics are persistently pursued" (my emphasis) says the Sun.

The suggestion is that gay ministers are prey to a conflict of loyalties. That their sexual proclivities somehow skew their judgments on policy. But secrecy should not be confused with privacy.

WE SHOULD know, for example, about freemasonry in the police or judiciary, because membership of an exclusive and secretive society may have a currupting influence and dictate decisions without anyone outside the charmed circle knowing.

Gay ministers are not in this position — all decisions on matters of private morality are taken on a free vote. In any event, the sexual proclivities of the ministers concerned — Ron Davies perhaps, excepted — have been an open secret in Westminster for years.

There have been times when conflicts of loyalty have impinged on policy, even on the security of the state. Roman Catholics in 16th-century England were loyal to Rome and Philip of Spain, the Pope's chief temporal ally.

There were those, notably the Catholic writer Graham Greene, who sympathised with Kim Philby on the grounds that his ideological commitment to communism was stronger than his loyalty to his MI6 employers.

Such conflicts, where individuals were, or are, deemed to be security risks, directly concern issues of public policy. How can gayness itself present such a risk?

Now even MI5 recruits gays. The point is not an individual's sexuality, but his (or her) potential vulnerability to blackmail.

It is the nature of the relationships which matter. If they are stable, there is no danger. But if the individual concerned is promiscuous or indulges in "rough trade", he or she could be targeted by a blackmailer.

But, since we are talking about public figures or individuals in sensitive posts with access to genuine secrets, this applies equally to heterosexuals. The straight cabinet minister who sleeps with prostitutes is as vulnerable as the one who hires rent boys.

Chris Smith once said that, ever since he outed himself, he has not been vulnerable to blackmail. That is not really the issue. Fitness for office depends on an individual's personal judgment, commitment, ability, effectiveness and discretion.

And accountability. Whitehall's unique culture of secrecy gives the media an excuse to pry into the private lives of public figures as well as — more legitimately — to investigate what the Government is up to.

More openness about policy-making will give the media in general, and perhaps the Sun in particular, fewer pretexts to probe into private lives, or to invent conspiracies where none could possibly exist.

More openness about policy making would give the media fewer pretexts to probe private lives, or to invent conspiracies

More transparency in the way we are governed — and not just by cabinet ministers — would help provide answers to the question posed by the Sun yesterday: "Is Britain being run by a gay mafia of politicians, lawyers, Palace courtiers and TV bigwigs?"

SERIOUS questions are being distorted by sometimes deliberate, sometimes unwitting, confusion between secrecy, privacy, and security. It is time those in Government, as well as those outside, grasped the distinctions.

A Government led by a moralist, albeit a tolerant one, would seem to well placed to do so.

Tony Blair should put into practice what he consistently preached when he was leader of the opposition.

Hurricane Mitch must prompt a reassessment of whether globalisation is delivering for the poor countries

Winds of change

Charlotte Denny

IF HURRICANE Mitch blows apart the West's puny offering to countries burdened by crippling foreign debts and forces a reassessment of what can be done to cut the loans mountain, it may not have been such an ill wind after all.

Yesterday the International Development Secretary, Clare Short, once again described debt relief as irrelevant to the task of rebuilding the countries devastated by the hurricane.

This is daft on two counts. First, Ms Short is rapidly alienating the development community which welcomed her with open arms last May, but now see her views as just as orthodox as those coming out of the International Monetary Fund. More importantly, however, the idea that diverting large chunks of their revennes to Western creditors will have no long-term impact on the poverty reduction Ms Short wants to see is absurd.

The four Central American countries hardest hit by Hurricane Mitch are between them paying $4 million a day in debt payments — hard enough for a fully functioning economy but impossible for nations whose entire infrastructure has been destroyed by a natural disaster of awe-inspiring scale.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer, Gordon Brown, at least sees that there is an urgent need for the rules to be rewritten so that special conditions are applied to countries recovering from disasters, whether natural or the result of conflict. This makes sense, and is a step on the way to reforming the World Bank's and IMF's current programme for debt relief. Under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries programme, Nicaragua can currently expect to have some proportion of its loans cut by 2001-2002 at the earliest.

Countries must spend a minimum of three years on a rigorous IMF programme of economic reform which Nicaragua had just begun this year. Honduras, which has not even started structural adjustment, is not eligible to receive any debt relief for even longer.

At present, if they fall into arrears on their $1.3 million daily interest payments, they will be automatically disqualified from their IMF agreement and they will have to begin the qualifying period all over again. The orthodox IMF argument is that any deviation from the rules would expose developing countries to moral hazard — the temptation to run up new debts which the world would again write off. Curiously, the same argument does not seem to have applied to the Western financiers whose foolish gambles in the emerging markets have been bailed out time and time again by the IMF. On Sunday, Mr Brown called for a two-year grace period on debt repayments for the two countries. Aid groups say this is sensible, but is no more than stating the obvious — the afflicted countries are clearly unable to keep up payments.



What is required is a more realistic assessment of what the poor nations can afford to pay so that they can embark on a proper development strategy. There is a precedent for this, the generosity showed to West Germany in 1953 on debt forgiveness which helped to lay the foundations for the post-war miracle.

Oxfam has come up with a blueprint for ensuring that debt relief is spent on poverty reduction, with every dollar saved to be spent on building up health and education systems. The IMF has been obsessive over the years in monitoring fiscal deficits; it is now time to start looking at the social deficits of the developing world.

In the end, the crisis in Central America should prompt a reassessment of whether globalisation is delivering for the poor countries. It should start with HIPC — hailed at the time as a global solution to the problem of debt — but which has become bogged down in delays and arguments between creditors. Only six countries have qualified since the mechanism was set up in 1996.

Honduras and Nicaragua cannot wait six years to get debt relief. The West must ask whether the other countries without books in their schools and drugs in their hospitals can either.

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'Clare Short has at last been rumbled by her own government'
Hugh Hanning, Letters

Out of touch and wrong

There is no velvet mafia

IS RUPERT Murdoch about to make the Newt Gingrich mistake? Is he sending his troops on a crude, vindictive, supposedly moralising crusade, just as the people are heading the other way? The former House Speaker pursued that course, leading Republicans on a witch-hunt into Bill Clinton's sex life — one the American people did not want. They showed their distaste last week, rejecting Mr Gingrich and his vendetta — a verdict which has cost the outgoing Speaker his job. But that has not stopped Mr Murdoch apparently despatching his own footsoldiers on a similarly intrusive mission, demanding the right to pry into the bedrooms of all our politicians. "Tell us the truth, Tony," insisted yesterday's Sun, asserting that "the public has a right to know how many homosexuals occupy positions of high power." The plea was a follow-up to the effective outing of the Agriculture Secretary, Nick Brown, by the Sun's sister paper, the News of the World.

Like Mr Gingrich, Mr Murdoch's timing is all wrong. For Britons have today declared their own verdict which, like the Americans who voted last week, shows their distaste for those who would poke and pry into the lives of others. The poll we publish today demonstrates a clear majority for inclusion and acceptance, and a loud rejection of the kind of sexual McCarthyism mounted by News International. By a margin of 52 per cent to 33 per cent, the British public sees open homosexuality as wholly compatible with a place in the Cabinet, while 56 per cent regard being gay as "morally acceptable". Despite the Sun's sombre declaration that "the public mood demands reassurance", that the nation is gripped by "widespread fears" of a Velvet Mafia running the country, Britons are remarkably relaxed.

Moreover, the Sun is not just out of touch, it's also wrong. The "fears" of a homosexual cabal are baloney. The four gay politicians it names do not form a single, coherent faction: on the contrary, Nick Brown, Ron Davies, Chris Smith and Peter Mandelson could all be identified with competing elements within the Cabinet. Nor are they a secret society: after all, being gay is not like joining the masons, where one chooses to become a member. There are no formal oaths of loyalty, no secret codes of conduct. No, the Sun's effort yesterday is in the worst tradition of conspiracy theories through the ages, mixing prejudice with fear to brand an entire community as outsiders plotting against the rest of us. Such a tactic has no place in our national dialogue. The senior staff of the Sun should be ashamed.

It was impossible to mistake the tone of menace which ran right through that newspaper yesterday. Despite the protestations that no one was out to pillory gays, the Sun was full of threats. It revealed that it had known of Nick Brown's sexuality for a long time, adding that it holds "a tape of a conversation between Brown and a rent boy" which it has chosen not to use. The News of the World referred to "lurid and fanciful allegations" that it had not been able to substantiate — but which it wanted to mention anyway. The implication did not have to be spelled out: News International has the dirt on Labour and it can use it whenever it likes. Coming from a conglomerate which awaits Peter Mandelson's decision on its bid for Manchester United, that sounded like more than a threat. It sounded like blackmail.

None of which should obscure the main news of the day. The Guardian/ICM poll is extremely heartening: it proves we are becoming a more tolerant, fairer society. If Rupert Murdoch and his newspapers cannot see that, it is surely they — like their one-time favourite, Newt Gingrich — who will ultimately pay the price.

Equal rights

And inequalities which remain

UNDER a government which bolted on a women's minister as an after-thought, women are doing all right. The new women's minister, Baroness Jay, has every reason to be proud of her government's record: the new national childcare strategy, the push to a "family friendly" work package, social security reforms that include a big increase in child benefit and the sharing of pensions on divorce. Like most other European states, Britain has seen women making major advances in the professions — equal numbers entering law and medicine and even more females taking business studies than men. Where only a generation ago there were seven male undergraduates for every three female, women now outnumber men in higher education. More female graduates found jobs than male graduates at the last count. By next year there will be more women than men in the workforce, though a big proportion remain part-timers.

Yet only the ideologically blind can ignore the discrimination and lack of equal opportunities that still continue: pay rates, which although they have narrowed, still fall an unacceptable 20 per cent below the male rate; a professional glass ceiling through which only a small proportion of women pass in legal, medical and Whitehall circles; the absence of women, unlike Scandinavia, in senior positions in science, engineering and technology. Baroness Jay pointed to other problems yesterday: Britain's record rate of unwanted teenage pregnancies; one in four women suffering from domestic violence; rigid labour laws which deter many women workers, such as nurses or teachers, from returning to their old careers. There are 140,000 nurses currently registered who are staying at home. The health service has been one of the slowest employers to recognise the importance of introducing family-friendly working practices.

Further reforms are in the pipeline. These don't contradict earlier ministerial initiatives, such as the move by education ministers to examine the widening gap between girls and boys at GCSE level. If the current laddish culture is successfully challenged — and the anti-learning boy culture corrected — there ought to be less domestic violence. Meanwhile a positive ministerial response is needed to the Equal Opportunity Commission's call for a comprehensive and modernised sex discrimination law incorporating the various earlier acts. Many problems, such as sexual harrassment, are not even currently covered.

Not so barmy

Dog bites dog bites dog

IN yesterday's Media section we gave readers the opportunity to catch up with the Spectator's coverage of the Guardian. The limits of space alone meant that we could not give the full flavour of its erudition, balance, charm and old fashioned courtesy. Stephen Glover, its press critic, writes to us today to say that we did not do him justice. He wants us to believe he is a model of fairness when it comes to the Guardian. He even quotes one favourable sentence from the thousands he has written about us.

Unlike the Spectator, it is not normally our practice to comment on letters, but on this occasion we will follow that magazine's — and Mr Glover's — fine example. It is true that Mr Glover praised our victory in Aitken libel case. It is also true that when our coverage subsequently won an award he wrote again suggesting the prize should really have gone to Mohamed Al Fayed. We make no complaint, but it is a little rich of Mr Glover to present himself as a wholly uncritical Guardian cheerleader in this matter. Next he says that our readers may be unaware of the Victoria Brittain case. But he knows that to be rubbish. Our external (not "internal") ombudsman investigated the case and his exhaustive findings were openly published both in the paper and in full on the Guardian's website. In addition to 10 columns on Ms Brittain's "silly mistake", Mr Glover has penned no fewer than three columns on the obsessive Jonathan Hunt, praising his "impressive results" as investigative reporter. Finally, after dropping numerous dark hints about this paper's relationship with Mr Al Fayed over the months, he managed to avoid any reference at all to more than 6,000 words we recently ran about Mr Al Fayed which were as critical as anything any paper has yet run about the Harrods owner. Why did fair-minded Mr Glover avoid mentioning this? It is understandable that he wishes to distance himself from the Spectator's barmy army, but he will really have to try a bit harder to prove that he is as dispassionate about us as he would like Guardian readers to believe.

Letters to the Editor

Holding on the telephone . . .

I WISH all employees of call centres well (Hello, Jim speaking. How may I help you? G2, November 9). But time and money wasted routinely on fruitless attempts to reach an operator and intolerable delay or failure to get written confirmation of transactions have brought me to the point of zero tolerance. Local brokers will benefit from my custom.
M Ticehurst.
Caerphilly.

THE Bush dynasty continues rather than begins (Mark Lawson, November 7). President Bush's father was Connecticut senator Prescott Bush, who "grubstaked" his son to a business start in Texas because changes in their home state's political make-up meant he was the last member of the New England patriciate likely to be elected from there.
Leonard Stehn.
London.

FOR the pessimists, the next decade (Letters, November 9) will be the "oh-obs", while the more optimistic will refer to it as the "ho-hos".
Steve King.
London.

ON the return of the space shuttle, BBC News said John Glenn's journey had proved pensioners can be successfully propelled into space. As a pensioner, I hope this does not indicate a more sinister intent, given the present problems of pension funding.
Tony Wix.
Alsager, Chesire.

ALL the children in all the world have got to do the littrissy hour, our seven-year-old informs us. Is there any truth in the further playground rumour that Father Christmas is being supplied with the SATs scores?
Michael Golby.
Exeter.

OVERHEARD recently: "I hear what you say but, having said that, as soon as we get a level playing field somebody moves the goal-posts and everything goes pear-shaped; but we're on a learning curve and hopefully we'll all end up singing from the same hymn-sheet." What does it all mean?
Jim Lewes.
Hereford.

No straight answers

SOCIETY is full of people who are neither simply gay nor straight (Cabinet fury at gay exposure, November 9), or who have cravings at odds with their main way of life, because they are like that, and no one can, or need, do anything about it. These are people whose lives can be threatened by a blackmailer, or sensationalised and sleazed over by the press. They are in most need of protection. But who is suggesting protection for them? The Government never thought of standing by Ron Davies. He deserved support. All of us, and especially Wales, deserved to have the Government stand up for Ron Davies.
Sara Clarke.
High Peak, Derbyshire.

IS IT any wonder that journalists are despised almost as much as they, themselves, despise politicians when Catherine Bennett writes such nonsense (True confessions, November 7)?

Because Straw, Smith, Short and Mandelson choose to disclose certain aspects of their private lives, that they consider germane, and which will harm no other person, why does Bennett believe that they have no right to resist prying hacks who wish to uncover "stories" which have no bearing on the performance of their duties, but which are designed merely to damage them and titillate the reader? If your writers consider themselves superior to those of the Sun, why are they increasingly becoming more like those to whom they condescend?
DJ Mayne.
Crawley, W Sussex.

CABINET fury at gay exposure would better read Cabinet hypocrisy over gay issues. My own teenage daughter told me that she was gay only a few months ago. I was very happy that she had found happiness, proud of her courage in being open, and selfishly regretful at the prospect of not having grandchildren. She sensibly pointed out that it was possible for her to have children, and with my last doubt resolved, I could rejoice in her happiness.

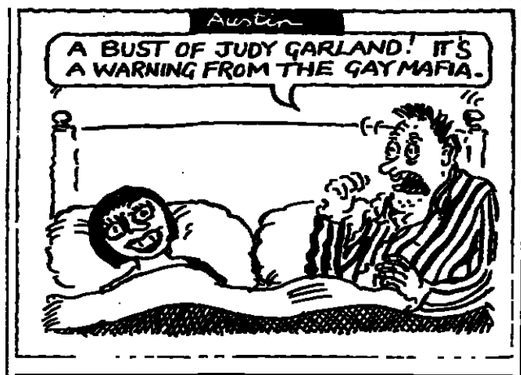
It is Jack Straw who has now told me that my child is unfit to bring up children, and who makes me feel angry enough to want to give him a smack in the mouth. I have every sympathy with MPs in a similar position, but it is their party leaders who have put them there.
Name and address supplied.

IF there is nothing wrong with homosexuality why do homosexuals feel the need to cover up the fact that they are so inclined? Since Victorian times homosexuals have claimed a conspiracy theory against them. It now seems apparent, with the recent reluctant behaviour of some senior public figures, that homosexuals have contributed to this conspiracy by refusing to stand by their convictions. Perhaps they should take a lesson from Clinton in weathering the storm.
Robert Marshall.
Cambridge.

IF someone remarked on television that a Cabinet minister was a heterosexual, would the BBC issue an instruction that his personal life should not be mentioned?
Stephen Lingard.
Oakworth, West Yorks.

WOULD Sun political editor Trevor Kavanagh tell us the truth? Is The Sun run by a heterosexual mafia?
Toby Wood.
Peterborough.

TO help readers make informed judgements on articles following the recent spate of "outings", could we have a register of the sexual orientations and/or biases of all national newspaper editors, political journalists and columnists. Three classifications will do: heterosexual, homosexual and homophobic. In the public interest of course.
David Cook.
St Helens.



Academics pushed over the top

MY colleague and ex-pupil Niall Ferguson is reported as saying that all his Oxford colleagues (and presumably ex-tutors) adore bureaucracy and poverty (History Man, G2, November 9) whilst they detest writing — at least in any literate fashion.

I hope that as a forfeit he will be offering a spectacularly good dinner to all of his colleagues (and ex-tutors) who, as a matter of fact, detest bureaucracy; who dislike poverty, both for themselves and for other people; and who, even if they lack Dr Ferguson's desire to assimilate history to journalism, are also preoccupied with the art of writing and its social function. The bill should be rather a large one — but still that £600,000 advance ought to cover it.
Peter Ghosh.
St Anne's College, Oxford.

NIALL Ferguson asks (about ordinary soldiers in the first world war): "If Wilfred Owen is right and war is so bloody awful, why didn't they all give up? Why were so few people shot for desertion?" The answer — because they were shot for desertion. He also explains that they couldn't surrender either because of the practice of "taking no prisoners". Not much choice left really — at least going over the top carried the chance of a survivable wound which got them home.
John Butt.
Exeter, Devon

Who will benefit from the West's planned debt relief?

IT seems that President Arnoldo Alemán wants to have his debt-relief cake and eat it too (West under pressure to increase aid, November 7). On November 6, the president said he would be asking the international community to bring forward Nicaragua's case as a Highly Indebted Poor Country for relief of its $6,500 million external debt. At the same time, he assures us that the Structural Adjustment Programme measures will be left in place, maintaining a "healthy and responsible policy and carrying out economic reforms necessary to reactivate the national economy".

This must come as frightening news for the thousands who have lost their homes, crops, animals and few belongings. As if charges for primary schooling and hospital treatment which had been implemented before the emergency situation weren't enough. One wonders who are the real beneficiaries of both the emergency relief effort and the proposed debt relief.
Anna McElhinney.
Managua, Nicaragua.

CLARE Short has at last been rumbled by her own government. It has snubbed her dismissal of appeals that the countries stricken by Hurricane Mitch should be given debt relief. This was, one hopes, her last poop. It comes on top of saying No to Montserrat, No to the victims in the Sudan, No to the charities and their appeals, and she has recently said No to the Ministry of Defence who briefed one of her top people to "show what we can do in disasters".

Fury among NGOs has been muted by their periodical need for government funding. We in this group have no such compunction, and are holding a conference on the subject in December.
Hugh Hanning.
Chairman, Fontmell Group, London.

'Clubby corner' claims rebutted

YOUR article about the Spectator (Hackwatch, G2, November 9) is selective and inaccurate in so far as it relates to my contributions.

You write that "in one clubby corner of the media [ie the Spectator) Hamilton and Aitken remain noble men, hounded by a powerful newspaper [ie the Guardian]". Yet in your apparently comprehensive list of articles about the Guardian published in the Spectator you omit to mention what I wrote about Mr Aitken on June 28, 1997. "The Guardian's revelation of Mr Aitken's dishonesty is a journalistic triumph. People of every political belief and of none should raise a cheer."

Why did you not put this in? Because it is at odds with the false impression you wish to convey to your readers of a magazine that is unremittingly antagonistic to the Guardian to the point of barminess. Paul Johnson and Taki must speak for themselves, but this has not been my approach.

You also refer to my articles about the Victoria Brittain affair as if these amounted to an unpardonable obsession. Your readers may be unaware that Ms Brittain, deputy foreign editor of the Guardian, allowed hundreds of thousands of pounds to pass through her bank accounts to enable a friend, the former head of the Ghanaian security services, to pursue a libel case against a rival newspaper, the Independent. Even your own internal ombudsman judged that she "made a silly mistake" and showed "poor judgment". Isn't it legitimate for a press critic to write about such things?

As for Jonathan Boyd Hunt's recent book, Trial by Conspiracy, about Neil Hamilton, I did not "praise it" as you allege. I took issue with attempts to smear Mr Hunt rather than answer his allegations. I do not accept Mr Hunt's suggestion of a cover-up involving the Guardian and its source, Mohamed Al Fayed, but I remain disturbed by your paper's complete reliance on this source, whose talent for invention becomes more evident by the day.
Stephen Glover.
Oxford.

Please include a full postal address, even on e-mailed letters, and a daytime telephone number. We may edit letters. Please provide a reference to the relevant article.

Name shame

IT is right that the name Fontenoy (Letters, November 7) has significance to "none but a minute fraction of the population this side of the Channel". Even worse for M Longuepée is that they know only too well that a British force, deserted by its Dutch and German allies, only lost to an attack by Irish, German and Belgian mercenaries. Perhaps we should rename our Eurostar terminal Fontenoy to remind us of the benefits of EU membership. Hang on. Waterloo, Longuepée? You've made this up, haven't you?
Brendan Morrissey.
London.

AS a French commuter passing Waterloo station daily, I would be offended if this station would be renamed (Let slip the names of war, G2, November 9). This is the only reminder of the group Abba.
Gilles Baillarguet.
London.

CHURCHILL was buried at Bladon, Oxfordshire, for which the London station is Paddington. But his train went from Waterloo. His will is said to have provided that if De Gaulle predeceased him, his fimeral was to leave from Paddington; if he predeceased de Gaulle, Waterloo.
A V Cookson.
London.

WE are sorry to hear that a faction of the French feel insulted by the name of Waterloo Station. We propose a change to Vichy Station.
Charles & Nigel Matthews.
Leeds.

Wye and how

WHAT Edward Said left out of his bitter account of how Arafat betrayed his people by signing the Wye Accord (Sold down the river, November 7) is how the negotiations were effectively conducted on behalf of the Palestinians by the Americans. To induce what minimal concessions were on offer, the US gave assurances to the security of Israel far greater than the ones extracted by Begin at Camp David. More importantly, in four confidential side letters, the US promises among other things that it will not "adopt any position or express any view" about the size of the next Israeli withdrawal, if any, and "will oppose" a unilateral declaration of a Palestinian state.
S E Sanbar.
London.

Digital muse

MATTHEW Engel perpetuates the common error of equating digital with binary (11100011100001111, November 7). The word digital refers to information represented using a set of fixed symbols such as letters or digits; as opposed to analogue which uses a continuously varying quantity. Your text is already digital, because it uses the 26 letters of the alphabet. Printing has been a digital since Caxton.
Prof D A Turner.
University of Kent.

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David Bond.
Witney, Oxon.

Chewing on Jenkins's 'fudge'

MY letter (November 2) setting out Labour policy on proportional representation seems to have stirred up a hornet's nest. A pity that PR supporters appear to be more exercised by arcane formulae than the bread and butter issues of politics. It is these issues that concern Labour voters and members. Labour was elected with a huge majority to repair the ravages of 18 years of Thatcherism. It would be criminal if it was sidetracked by this crude fudge from Jenkins.

You allege that a survey shows that most Labour members support PR for parliament. You should publish the survey in full so that it can be analysed. The true picture is very different.
Pete Willsman.
Labour Party NEC.

GERALD Kaufman thinks the voting system proposed by Jenkins is "hopelessly complex". Yet I am sure most voters are capable of writing "1, 2, 3" on one part of the ballot paper and "X" on another without getting confused. First past the post can deliver a disproportionate majority for one party. Many people's votes do not count since they make no difference to the result. It is those voters who will choose between a system that makes votes count, or one serving the people it elects.
Andrew Puddephatt.
London.

IN your report (Jay scorns most hereditary peers, November 5), you suggest there are 700 hereditary peers. In fact, there are 633 working hereditary peers out of a total of 1,164, of whom 302 are Tory. Instead of eliminating them, surely what we need is working peers from all walks of life? We need a clear reform strategy as indicated in a Mori poll showing that the public wanted to leave things alone until all details are decided.
Peter Sanguinetti.
Director, Common Sense for Lords Reform.

ARE the right people reaching Parliament? The selection of parliamentary candidates is much more fundamental than the subsequent electoral machinery. Candidates are now selected by only 2 per cent of the electorate — the party members — from approved lists. Party committees effectively determine the character of Parliament by approving the lists from which the 2 per cent choose the candidates the other 98 per cent are permitted to elect. Is it not time to introduce open public advertisement and the constitutional right of every elector to full participation in the party selection process?
David Williams.
Holywell, Flintshire.

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Jean Marais

Cocteau's adorable angel



Marais . . . even in old age he still embodied Cocteau's beautiful alter ego FRANCOIS GUENET

JEAN Cocteau once wrote that "it is a mistake to think that Jean Marais became an actor because he was my friend," but the world knows that Marais, who has died aged 84, would probably never have won his place as a *grande vedette* had Cocteau not created the plays and films for his "adorable Jeannot".

Shortly after their initial meeting in 1937 the first role that Cocteau entrusted to him was Sir Galahad in *Les Chevaliers de la Table Ronde*. It was not an encouraging debut. The Paris critics almost unanimously agreed that Marais looked good, but that was all. To his credit Marais refused to be discouraged and dedicated himself to proving that he had something more to offer.

He became immune to catastrophe after his mother's marriage collapsed when he was only four. He worshipped her, always calling her Rosalie — although her name was Henriette. Thus did Cocteau make the son in *Les Parents Terribles* — played by Marais — do the same.

"Rosalie" left her husband, Alfred Villain-Marais, in 1917. She took Jean and his elder brother, Henri, from Cherbourg to live in Paris. Forty years later, Marais was summoned to Villain-Marais's deathbed. He persuaded Rosalie to come to the funeral — where neither of them wept.

In his autobiography, *Histoires de ma Vie*, Marais tells that many years later a young journalist who came to interview him, said he was Jean's "cousin". Apparently Villain-Marais was not Jean's real father. His mother admitted the truth that neither he nor his brother were really sons of the veterinarian from Cherbourg. She laughed apologetically, remembering how Jean had so insisted on them going to the funeral.

In early life Marais decided he wanted to become an actor, while Rosalie wanted him to choose a "serious" profession. He failed the exam for the Conservatoire but took advantage of Charles Dullin's offer to young actors to attend lessons while playing walk-ons in his company. Fellow students setting up a company for the 1937 Paris Exhibition asked him to join them, although he only accepted when he heard they were to do a play by Cocteau, who Marais longed to meet. He hoped to get the job of understudy to Jean-Pierre Aumont in *Les Chevaliers*. When Cocteau saw him he proposed that Marais play the title role in *Oedipe-Roi*, but the students were resentful so, in the end, he played the Chorus. Suddenly Cocteau asked him to play Galahad — and then disappeared for two weeks.

Marais could not understand what he had done wrong. He had not been asked to perform other services — which had happened with another director, probably Marcel L'Herbier, in whose film, *L'Epervier*, he had played a bit part in 1933. Then he got a call from Cocteau, who told him there had been a "catastrophe". Marais rushed to meet the great man, only to discover that the "catastrophe" was that Cocteau now knew he was in love with Jeannot.

"I told him I loved him too, even if at the time it was not true," Marais later admitted. "I was an *arriviste* and I couldn't say no. But before long I was truly in love with this great poet, who was determined to turn this insignificant being that I was into something worthwhile."

Marais moved into Cocteau's hotel suite and they did not emerge for three days. He became the new guardian angel in Cocteau's life and poetic world. The Galahad debacle impelled him to improve his technique — above all his voice, which was to remain raucous, even if over the years it became a personal — and not unattractive — characteristic. Cocteau then wrote for him *Les Parents Terrible*, in which Marais scored a great success as the mother-doting Michel. His own mother was jealous of the relationship with Cocteau but appreciated his success in the play without apparently identifying herself with the almost incestuously possessive mother.

The critics were kinder this time and Marais felt he could try a classic. He wanted to play Nero in *Britannicus*, and set up the production in Paris on the eve of the second world war. Again the critics found his appearance impressive, his acting less so. Cocteau wrote another play for him, *La machine à ecrire*, but in German-occupied Paris its perceived decadence did not go down well.

During the war Cocteau wrote *L'Eternel Retour*, which, with Marais and Madeleine Solange as the teutonic blonde, was a modern Tristan and Iseult, filmed superbly by Jean Dellanoy. It made Marais the rage of Paris. In the closing months of the war he drove a supply lorry for the French Army's move into Germany.

HE had messed up his first entry into the Comédie Francaise by taking leave when a film offer beckoned. When he tried to go back he was told, "The Comédie Francaise is not a revolving door." When he did eventually return in the 1950s, to play Racine's Nero again, he got the same critical reaction — but by now Paris audiences were on his side.

Though the relationship with Cocteau became more platonic after the war, their collaboration touched new heights, first when Marais played the beast in the film *La Belle et la Bête* (1945), then on stage in *L'Aigle a deux têtes* playing opposite Edwige Feuillere. The final scene, in which the romantic anarchist-poet Stanislas falls to his death down the staircase, offered him an acrobatic feat which inevitably privileged the male actor in theatrical terms. Marais and Feuillere repeated their roles successfully in Cocteau's 1948 film of the play.

That same year Cocteau also successfully filmed *Les Parents Terribles*, even if Marais was by now perhaps too old for the part. But in 1949 the poet-director gave him his most memorable role in the film that summed up Cocteau's aesthetic, *Orphée*. The film was received tepidly at the 1950 Venice Film Festival: I remember going with other Anglo-American critics to comfort Cocteau with our enthusiasm for the film.

The young painter Edouard Dermithe, first seen in the cameo of Cégeste Orphée, had taken Marais's place as Cocteau's angel. Marais replayed Orpheus, and this time he had the cameo role, in *Le Testament d'Orphée*, in which Dermithe played the lead. In 1956 he played opposite Ingrid Bergman in Jean Renoir's elegant *Elena et les Hommes*. In 1957, when Luchino Visconti — who he had met first in 1930s Paris — asked him to find an actor of his type to play the small role of Maria Schell's lover in *Le Notti Bianche*. Marais said it would be an honour to play anything under Luchino's direction.

Cocteau's two "angels" were the principal mourners at his funeral in 1963. Marais's 1975 autobiography ends with Cocteau's death but his career did not. His box office popularity continued with films like *Fantomas* and its sequels. In recent years he played a witty cameo as the French guest in Bertolucci's *Stealing Beauty* (1995).

His greatest achievement was in 1983, on the 20th anniversary of Cocteau's death. At the Théatre de L'Atelier in Paris, where Marais had been a walk-on while studying at Charles Dullin's school, he did a one-man show, *Cocteau-Marais*, which he devised and directed with Jean-Luc Tardieu. It was an affectionate portrait of the poetic world in which he had been a privileged player, complete with the mirror image which was so important to Cocteau's view of the world.

After the show I went backstage, and asked Marais to dedicate for me a splendid photograph of him in *Orphée*, which I had kept since that 1950 Venice festival. He looked at the photo and, as he signed it, said smilingly: "I haven't changed much have I?". He hadn't. Until the very end, despite white hair and a few wrinkles, he still embodied the beautiful alter ego of one of the century's most flamboyantly exotic creative artists.

John Francis Lane

Jean Marais, actor, born December 11, 1913; died November 8, 1998



Mirror image . . . Marais in his most memorable role, Orphée

Rumer Godden

Echoes of an Indian childhood

"NICE old ladies should really stay at home," remarked the writer Rumer Godden four years ago, sitting in the dusk in a hotel in Orissa, India, entertaining a film crew over a glass of her preferred Scotch whisky. "But then I am not a nice old lady." She was then approaching her 87th birthday, and has just died at the age of 90. Her widely praised 21st novel appeared last year. She was a woman of character and a prolific and popular writer for over 50 years. Her work was loved and admired by generations of readers.

Her first book was published in 1935; her first best-seller, *Black Narcissus*, came out in 1939 and has remained in print ever since. She wrote many children's classics, including *The Doll's House*, *The Story of Holly and Ivy*, and *Impunity Jane*. She was awarded the Whitbread Prize in 1972 for her book for young readers, *The Diddakoi*, (later televised as *Kizzy*). Four of her books became successful feature films: *Black Narcissus*, *The River*, *The Greengage Summer*, *The Battle Of The Villa Fiorita* and *In This House Of Brede*. And she also published poetry, anthologies, non-fiction and memoirs, and a two-volume autobiography, *A Time To Dance, No Time To Weep* (1987) and *A House With Four Rooms* (1989).

Her greatest inspiration was undoubtedly her time in India, where she spent the first half of her life. It formed the background for several books, most notably her masterpiece *The River* (1949). She was also inspired by ballet, religion and the spirit and vivacity of her adored pekinese dogs.

She was born Margaret Rumer Godden in Eastbourne, and was known as Peggy. The second of four daughters, she spent an idyllic childhood on the banks of the great rivers of Bengal, where her father ran a shipping line. She always disliked being associated with the Raj, and ascribed her lifelong passion for the people, the culture and the landscape of India to her parents' decision, forced on them by the first world war, to keep her at home until she was 12.

Godden grew up determined to be a writer, but after finishing her education in England trained as a dancing teacher. Back in Calcutta in the late 1920s, she found the glamorous social life of what was still then the social and commercial hub of British India irresistible; she once went out 67 nights in succession.

Determined to earn her living, she disregarded convention by opening a dancing school, where she took Anglo-Indian pupils as well as Europeans and wealthy Indians. In 1934 she was married in Calcutta Cathedral to Lawrence Sinclair Foster, a stockbroker and golfer. They were not well-suited; as she revealed in her autobiography, she married because she was pregnant, but the baby died at birth, and she soon came to feel, despite the arrival of two daughters, that the marriage was a mistake. "I have distrusted charm ever since," she would say.

THE success of *Black Narcissus* seemed to confirm her future as a writer, but the outbreak of the second world war — and the discovery that her husband was severely in debt — changed everything. She found herself pennfless and alone in Calcutta with two small children; she retreated, first, to a tea estate near Darjeeling, then to a hillside outside Srinagar in Kashmir, where after a serious illness she started a herb farm. After a mysterious episode, brilliantly evoked in her novel *Kingfishers Catch Fire* (1953), in which ground glass and poison were detected in her family's food, and two of their servants were arrested, she fled back to Calcutta, where she wrote *Bengal Journey*, an account of the war work being done by British women. She returned to England with her daughters in 1945.

Thereafter her home was to be in the United Kingdom, although she returned to India with the director, Jean Renoir, to film *The River* and to visit her sisters, one of whom, Jon Godden, also became a respected novelist; they collaborated on several books, most notably an account of their early life, *Two Under The Indian Sun* (1966).

IN 1949 Godden married again, to a civil servant, James Haynes-Dixon, with whose unstinting support she wrote a series of successful books in the 1950s and 1960s. Her books were always carefully researched; her novel about a community of nuns, *In This House Of Brede* (1969), reflected not only her own conversion to Catholicism but her close involvement with the Benedictine convent at Stanbrook Abbey, where she became great friends with the writer Dame Felicitas Corrigan.

Godden was a professional and a perfectionist, demanding of herself and others; but she also had a great capacity for enjoyment and dearly loved her family, her friends, her animals, the opera and the beautiful houses she ran — she lived for some years in Lamb House, Rye, formerly the home of Henry James, and in Highgate, north London.

She served briefly on the Arts Council in the 1960s but the public role of the writer was not for her; her precise, slightly formal, manner disguised a certain shyness and vulnerability. Nevertheless her love of poetry, and her deep belief in the importance of literature to children, led her to years of work organising poetry readings in schools. She gave many successful talks and readings herself, and was also much in demand on the American lecture circuit.

In 1978, after her husband's death, she moved to Scotland to live alongside her daughter, Jane, and continued to write; she was awarded the OBE in 1993. In 1994 she returned to India for the first time in 20 years as the subject of a BBC documentary about her life and work. She had four grandchildren and three great grandchildren, and, to the end, was receiving fan mail from new readers of her books.

Anne Chisholm

(Margaret) Rumer Godden, writer, born December 10, 1907; died November 8, 1998



Godden . . . inspired by the spirit of her pekinese dogs

CORRECTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS

THERE WERE several mistakes on the squad sheet, the guide to the Premiership games, page 4, Sport, November 7, the most serious the replacement of the entire Derby team with players from Nottingham Forest. We also said the game between Liverpool and Derby would be played at Anfield on Sunday; it was played on Saturday. In the Manchester United team details, Irwin was left unaccounted for. Similarly there was no reference to Petit, of Arsenal. Some of the Everton details were wrong in the first edition. Apologies.

A GRAPHIC headed, Where on earth?, page 14, Sport, November 6, correctly located Wagga Wagga, the birthplace of Mark Taylor, the Australia cricket captain, 95 miles west of Canberra, but then declared in the accompanying text that it was 95 miles *east* of Canberra. Deniliquin, shown to the north-west of Wagga Wagga on the map, is actually on a more southerly latitude than Mark Taylor's home town; where Deniliquin has been placed, the town of Narrandera actually stands. Goulburn, north-west of Canberra and some distance from the Hume Highway on our map, is actually north-east of Canberra and on the Hume Highway.

WE PUT an ungrammatical strapline on an article headed, Let slip the names of war, page 5, G2, yesterday, saying "... let he who is without sin", picking up the same ungrammatical misquotation from the piece itself. Here's a repeat of the correction we carried when we did the same thing in September: We should have said, "Let *him* who is without sin ..." And the correct quotation from the *Bible* would be, "He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her" (John 8:7).

It is the policy of the Guardian to correct errors as soon as possible. Please quote date and page number. Readers may contact the office of the Readers' Editor by telephoning 0171 239 9589 between 11am and 5pm, Monday to Friday. Surface mail to Readers' Editor, The Guardian, 119, Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER. Fax: 0171 239 9897. E-mail: reader@guardian.co.uk

The Country Diary has been held over

Birthdays

Robert Carrier, restaurateur, 75; **Nigel Evans**, Conservative MP, 41; **Donya Fiorentino**, model, 31; **Sean Hughes**, comic and broadcaster, 33; **Eddie Irvine**, grand prix driver, 33; **Sir Tim Rice**, lyricist, 54; **Prof Tony Ridley**, civil engineer, 65; **Prof Elizabeth Robson**, geneticist, 70; **Viscount Runciman of Doxford**, 61; **Sir William Ryrie**, banker, 70; **Roy Scheider**, actor, 63; **Maeve Sherlock**, director, National Council for One-Parent Families, 38; **Sir Alfred Sherman**, co-founder, Centre for Policy Studies, 79; **David (Screaming Lord) Sutch**, founder, Monster Raving Loony Party, 58; **Elizabeth Toulson**, chairman, WRVS, 50; **Christine Walker**, advertising executive, 44.

Death Notices

DILLON. Michael (Gold), much loved art historian, age 52. Funeral, 11am November 13 at St. Mellitus Church, Church Road, London W7 to be followed by interment at The City of Westminster Hanwell Cemetery, Uxbridge Road, London W7. No flowers. Donations to Dr G. Dhillon re: Michael Dillon Memorial Fund, TSB, 39a South Road, Southall, Middx. UB1 1SR.

JOHNSON-GILBERT. Thomas Ian, at the Saint John and Saint Elizabeth Hospital, St. John's Wood, London on November 4th. Much loved by his wife Gill, daughter Catherine, son Christopher and his four grandchildren. A Service of Thanksgiving will be held at St Peter's Church, East Marden, Chichester at 12 noon on Thursday 12th November, for family and close friends, followed by a private cremation. Family flowers only. A Memorial Service will be held in London later. Enquiries to F A Holland & Son Chichester 01243 782965

REED. Dr. Morris (Nick), aged 93, on 3rd November 1998 at the Royal Free Hospital, after a short illness. Chartered electrical engineer, radar pioneer, company director and, after his first retirement, consultant to the Luton and Dunstable Training Group until the age of 85. Much loved father of Judith, friend of Esther, grandfather of Charles and Ruth, and great-grandfather of Joshua, Chana, Sophie, Phoebe, Chloe and Frederick. Funeral in London at 2.15pm on Wednesday, November 11th. Details from 0181 445 2797.

Births

MACFARLANE/PAIN. To Rachel Pain and Robert MacFarlane, on the 7th November 1998, a son, Benjamin Harry MacFarlane, first grandchild for Beryl Pain and Roger Pain and for Nora and Alistair MacFarlane.

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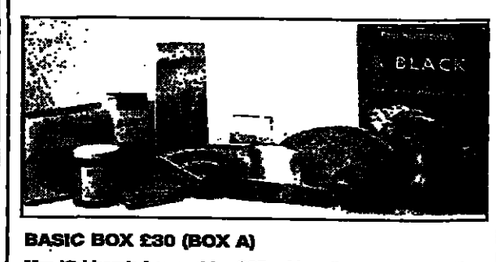
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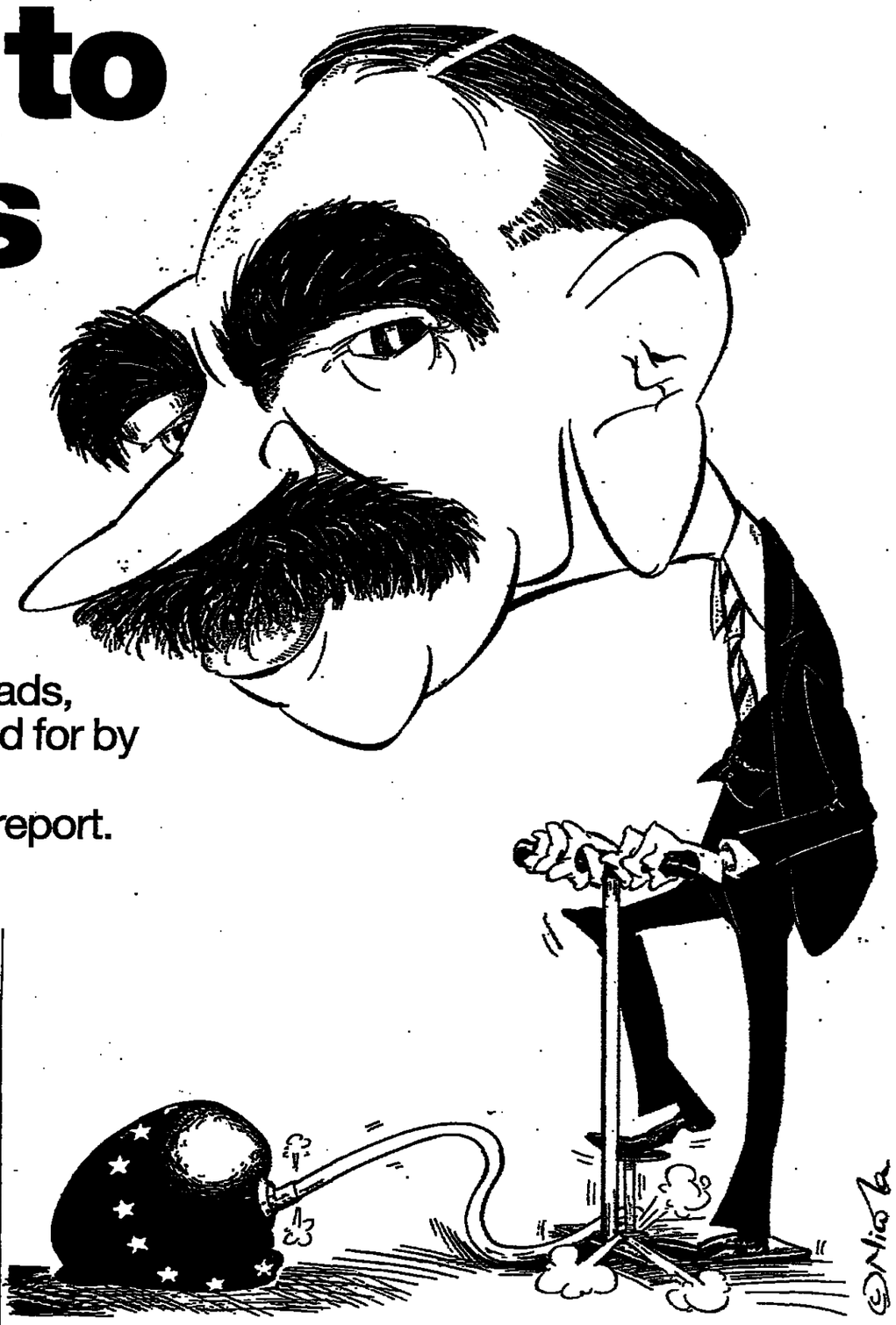
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Analysis
Creating jobs in Europe

All Hans to Keynes's pump





As well as the single currency, next year is going to see the launch of an ambitious scheme for boosting employment in Europe. Germany's new left-of-centre government is pushing, with the French, for new roads, rail links and other infrastructure, paid for by bonds and bankers' reserves. **Martin Walker** and **Mark Milner** report.

ACCORDING to John Maynard Keynes, whose belief in using public investment to stimulate demand and generate growth has become politically fashionable among a new generation of European leaders, "when the facts change, I change my mind. What do you do?"

Three big facts have changed in Europe at the same time. The single currency is about to be launched and the markets' belief that it will be both strong and stable has already helped to insulate Europe from economic turbulence in Asia and Russia. The return of the centre-left to power across the continent, now running 13 of Europe's 15 member states, has produced a kind of political critical mass. Above all, the financially-orthodox government of Helmut Kohl in Germany has gone, to be replaced by a Red-Green coalition led by Social Democrats who say they prefer growth to stability and see the creation of jobs for Germany's 4 million unemployed as their primary task.

For the past six years, Europe's economies have been managed according to the Maastricht system, named after the treaty at which the single currency was agreed along with the rules and criteria for joining it. The Maastricht system was established when conservatives held sway in Bonn and Paris and even in London and the rules were accordingly orthodox. They specified independent central banks, dedicated to cutting inflation, while governments were charged with lowering public debt and government deficits.

It now seems that this December in Vienna will see the birth of Maastricht mark II, to reflect the new political character of Europe. A summit of European leaders scheduled next month in Vienna is to review plans to be drawn up by Ecofin (the 15 EU finance ministers) to coordinate their economic and employment policies with a view to stimulating growth (1).

The preliminary bout to watch will be the Franco-German summit that takes place next week. The unapologetically Keynesian finance ministers of France and Germany, Dominique Strauss-Kahn and Oskar Lafontaine, are drawing up their own master plan. From statements made so far, there look to be three key components. There will be calls for lower interest rates; for blurring the old Maastricht rules so that public investment need not be counted as a budget deficit; and consequently, for some big and Europhile public spending projects.

THAT old Keynesian Neil Kinnock, now transport commissioner in Brussels, just happens to have some plans to hand, in his grand design for Europe's 21st century transport system(2). Individual and existing components of the ambitious trans-Europe grid, such as the Channel tunnel and the high-speed train links between Paris and Brussels, fit into a coherent broader picture of infrastructure improvement that extends to Rome and Madrid, to Frankfurt and Berlin and on into the countries applying to join the EU in eastern Europe.

CALLED Tens, which stands for Trans-European Networks, the total plan is costed at 400 billion ecu, or almost £300 billions, by the year 2010. The vast bulk of this is to come from national governments and international lending bodies such as the European Investment Bank and the European Investment Fund, with Mr Kinnock urging an ever-growing role for private sector capital. With only £3.5 billions of EU money to spend over the next seven years, Mr Kinnock has hitherto seen his role as "priming the pump", paying for feasibility and planning studies which then use EU funds to lever far more money from other national and private financing sources. But even in the grimmer days of the old Maastricht system, Mr. Kinnock has always seen the Tens masterplan in politico-Keynesian terms.

"This all translates into greater economic prosperity and job creation," Mr Kinnock said in a report on the state of the Tens which he delivered to Europe's heads of government at their Cardiff summit last May. "But we know that the conventional source of infrastructure investment — the public sector — is not going to be able to meet all the costs, which is why we need to work even harder to encourage public-private funding partnerships". (He cited the Channel Tunnel as perhaps not the happiest example.)

There could be public money available for this, in the central bank reserves "liberated" by the birth of the single currency. Since the bulk of commerce in EU countries is with other member states, that trade will become internal, and will no longer need financing with separate currencies. The amount of "surplus" reserves has been estimated variously at $100 billions (in a very preliminary study from the French) and up to $300 billions, in a more grandiose European Parliament proposal, drafted by Giorgio Ruffolo, an Italian socialist MEP.

The European Central Bank (ECB) has not formally spoken yet. But one of its governing board members, the Italian Tommaso Padoa-Schioppa, has cast doubt on the scheme. A significant proportion of most Euro-zone central bank reserves are held in German marks, which from the launch of the euro will become in effect local currency and will "lose their character as monetary reserves"(3). Italy's central bank governor Antonio Fazio has been even blunter. Using the ECB's excess reserves was "an odd idea," he said last week. And defining just what excess means in the context of the ECB's reserves will prove a political and economic nightmare.

The initial plan from the former Italian prime minister, Romano Prodi, to sell off the central banks' reserves of dollars, has been squashed by the French; they believe it would depress the value of the dollar, making Euro-denominated exports more expensive.

LIONEL JOSPIN, the French prime minister, proposes instead to use $100 billions of the reserves to raise a loan, through a Euro-denominated bond dedicated to financing EU development(4). We have been here before. This Euro-bond plan to finance infrastructure development was first floated by former Commission President Jacques Delors in 1993. It was blocked then by the Germans and the British, citing the old Maastricht rules. Under Maastricht mark II, it could be an idea whose time has come.

Even market-friendly Tony Blair, who managed to modernise social democracy in a way that central bankers found agreeably unthreatening, has caught the new Euro-mood. Or perhaps he is desperate to stay in touch with his European partners before they sail off into the single currency future. Whatever the reason, he announced his conversion at the recent Pörtschach meeting of Euro leaders. "The focus on jobs and growth is surely right", he said. "We plainly have moved from a situation where people have been concerned about inflation to one where the concerns are on the other side, and policy makers should take account of that".

But if Euro-Keynsianism is becoming an irresistible force, it is meeting an immovable object in the form of the chief of the ECB, Wim Duisenberg, who in turn holds the key to sentiment in the capital markets which may soon become suspicious of a Europe that seems to be striding away from the old monetarist religion. If the new German government is throwing over the old rules about overt political pressure on the Bundesbank and, by extension, the ECB which will take over the job of setting interest rates effectively from next month, Mr Duisenberg shows no signs of abandoning the tenets of Maastricht I. Last week he warned that the single currency and cutting interest rates were not a panacea for bringing down unemployment. In a speech to the Prognos Institute he urged governments to cut deficits and encourage the conditions for corporate investment. "Unemployment can only really be tackled with structural reforms that aim at making labour markets more efficient."

Relations between the post-Maastricht generation of Euro-leaders and the ECB will be watched with close interest by the financial markets, particularly the conservative bond markets. They have bought into the Maastricht criteria in a big way. Their enthusiasm has been reflected in the low level of euro-land interest rates. Though bond investors are not against growth *per se* they may get worried if they think the new Keynesianism threatens to play fast and loose with inflation.

SO far the markets are taking a relaxed view. "There is a great deal of rhetoric but we have not had much substance to back up the bravado," according to Ian Gunner, an analyst at ABN AMRO bank in London, though he believes the markets might well take fright if they believed the stability pact, meant to enforce Maastricht, was being abandoned. Alison Cottrell, an economist at the American investment house PaineWebber, says the main concern for markets is not the sanctity of the limit of 3 per cent of gross domestic product imposed on government borrowing under Maastricht. "What would be a disaster would be to have individual finance ministers 'at war' with the ECB, the latter than pursuing overly tight policy (too high interest rates) in an already shaky environment in order to keep elected politicians in line"(5).

But worries about the newly pinkish tinge to the map of Europe can be overdone, argues Ms Cottrell. "Much of the change in policy, in the sense of a greater willingness to consider transnational job creation programmes and co-operation on growth packages, reflects . . . not so much from right to left, as changing global circumstances." When the world turns upside down old theories get dusted off in the hope they may provide present solutions. Welcome back Lord Keynes.

Sources: (1) Report of the Council President, Viktor Klima, Pörtschach, October 25, 1998; (2) EU Commission report on TransEuropean Transport Network, Brussels, June 3, 1998; (3) Agence Europe, bulletin quotidien, October 13, 1998; (4) Lionel Jospin, speaking on France-2 TV, October 8, 1998; (5) Europe: Red in tooth and claw: PaineWebber October 1998. Martin Walker is the Guardian's Europe editor and Mark Milner is deputy financial editor.



Newt's lesson for the Tories 8

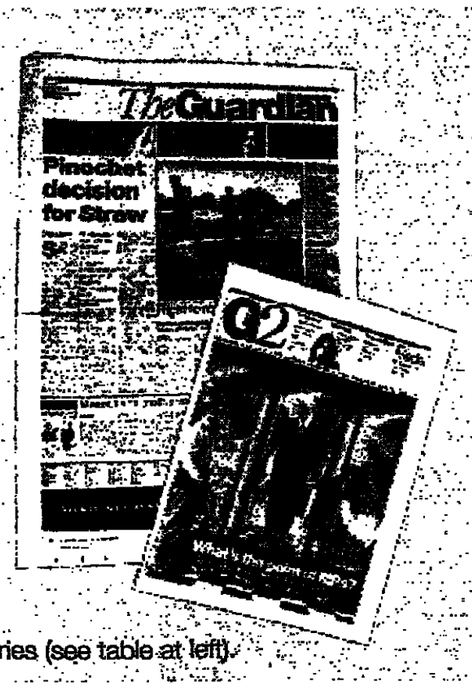
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FinanceGuardian

Brown defies price slump

Manufacturing in grip of deflation

Larry Elliott
Economics Editor

THE Chancellor, Gordon Brown, insisted last night that Britain would skirt clear of recession next year after the latest gloomy economic data showed a stalling of consumer demand forcing factories to slash their prices at the fastest rate for almost 40 years.

Official figures released yesterday showed the manufacturing sector gripped by deflation — falling prices — while retailers said that the autumn's wet weather and the spectre of recession meant sales were lower last month than a year ago.

However, while giving evidence to the Treasury select committee, the Chancellor said that cheaper borrowing and higher levels of public spending would help to turn the economy around during the coming months.

Mr Brown said that his self-imposed rule on public spending — borrowing only to invest over the economic cycle — was safe even if growth only reached the lower end of his 1 to 1.5 per cent forecast for 1999.

Noting that base rates had been cut by 0.75 percentage points in the past two months, the Chancellor said: "By taking earlier action it has been possible for monetary policy now to respond to the downturn.

"[And with] the deficit having been attacked ... it is possible for fiscal policy to respond as well. It is the combination of monetary and fiscal policy working together that has allowed us to make these forecasts as we do."

Data for producer prices from the Office for National Statistics showed that the cost of industry's goods rose by just 0.1 per cent in the year to October.

However, stripped of excise duties, prices fell by 0.7 per cent, and excluding food, drink, tobacco and petrol they were down by 0.3 per cent.

Meanwhile, the British Retail Consortium said that October had been a grim month in the high street and reported only the second fall in retail sales in three and-a-half years.

Sales were 0.6 per cent lower than they were a year earlier, compared with a rise of 1.2 per cent in the year to September and an increase of more than 6 per cent at the start of the year.

The BRC said that business was poor for shops and stores in nearly every sector, despite mid-season reductions offered to tempt cautious consumers back into the high street.

Womenswear was the hardest hit by the decline in consumer confidence, but the reluctance to spend on big-ticket items also took their toll of electrical and electronic goods, and furniture and carpets.

Department stores reported low receipts from in-house cafeterias and restaurants — seen by the BRC as a sign of a lack of shoppers in stores. "The wet weather appeared to keep customers away from town centres on Saturdays."

Andrew Higginson, chairman of the BRC economic affairs committee, said: "Customer confidence appears to have taken a battering in October. News of redundancies and general economic gloom have led to a lot of belt-tightening among customers, with purchases largely limited to essentials, and little discretionary spending. It is to be hoped that the situation improves in the run-up to Christmas."

Bridget Rosewell, BRC chief economic adviser, commented: "These results show that the half-point cut in interest rates announced last Thursday was well timed, since it is clear that the slowdown is now well established in the retail sector, and there is hardly any growth in sales. The trend is still firmly downwards, and will need to be reversed shortly if the economy is to keep growing."

Notebook

Flying colours in turbulent market



Alex Brummer

GIVEN the turbulence in the global economy, so far, this year British Airways emerges reasonably intact. The overall profits, showing a 10.5 per cent decline to £385 million, may flatter to deceive. But they nevertheless represent a creditable outcome in difficult market conditions.

The flattery comes from several factors. The figures from the same period of last year were adversely affected by the air crews strike, which makes the six months to September 1998 look better; lower oil prices contributed to a 10.5 per cent, or £42 million, saving in fuel costs and the global financial crisis hit air traffic more heavily in October (beyond the current reporting period) than in the three months to September.

Despite the problems in the global economy, BA managed to keep passenger load up at 76.5 per cent. The yield fell, however, as a result of business passengers switching to cheaper services, the continued strength of the pound and greater competition at the low-cost end of the market where BA has found it necessary to become a full player. Cargo, an important part of the mix, took a big hit although non-scheduled services showed healthy growth.

Looking ahead BA seems to have equipped itself reasonably well for a less buoyant market-place. The cost-saving programme is chipping in at the right moment and the reconfiguration of the fleet — to include more flexible regional jets — is also sensible. The American Airlines alliance continues to be developed and the outlines of a more global approach — through its "oneworld" branding — should start to pay dividends when, and if, common code-sharing and frequent flier schemes are in place.

Matters may get worse at BA before they get better, because air transport *is* highly cyclical. But, like Chancellor Gordon Brown, the company's chief executive, Robert Ayling, clearly thinks he has found ways of smoothing the bumps.

St Michael rift

THE orderly process put in place by the Marks & Spencer board for resolving the enveloping succession struggle is plainly not working. While chairman Sir Richard Greenbury has been away on a short business trip to India, the perceived rivals for the post of chief executive, deputy chairman Keith Oates and managing director Peter Salsbury, have been manoeuvring for advantage in the public prints. Mr Oates appears to be using the sharp first-half decline in profits — no surprise to anyone familiar with the business — as an opportunity to promote his own cause. First reports had him appealing to the non-executive directors, over the head of Greenbury, followed by new reports that actually he and Salsbury could work together as chairman and chief executive respectively if Sir Richard, who is there until 2001, should step aside.

One detects a slight desperation in Mr Oates's tactics. The view of the senior non-executives Brian Baldock and Sir Martin Jacomb earlier this year was that, because of doubts about the ability of Mr Oates to run the group and concerns about Salsbury's experience, it would be better not to act in haste. There was even the suggestion that when the job was split and the succession determined, it might go to one of the able, younger executives reaching board level. By all accounts Mr Oates is now seeking to jump-start the process: but there is no serious reason to believe that the senior non-executives have been convinced of his merits.

Oil pointer

IF there was going to be any UK company investing £500 million in the chemical industry, in the teeth of slump in chemical markets and the general downturn in the economy, it was likely to be British Petroleum. It is among a handful of UK companies, identified by the Department of Trade and Industry in a new study, which believes that investment in new capital pays rich dividends.

In this case BP is modernising kit at Grangemouth in Scotland and at Hull, to strengthen its position in the ethylene market in Europe. It is quite a brave decision for a company that saw chemical profits plunge by 50 per cent last year. In the process of pushing ahead with this investment it is to create some 3,100 construction jobs and eventually, 225 permanant production posts — although others might be lost at outdated facilities.

Among the reasons, however, that the UK has a strong oil and minerals sector is that managements in companies like BP and RTZ are apparently much more willing to invest in the future than their manufacturing, consumer and utility counterparts. The DTI report shows that capital per employee at BP and others in the sector is £589,000 which puts them ahead of their international counterparts. In contrast all five of the other groups of UK industries examined performed below par. Consumer goods manufacturers are well below the global average as are service companies.

The report finds British companies are performing a bit better when it comes to increases in capital expenditure per worker in oil companies, with electrical, electronic, transport and communications sectors doing quite well. But there is a long way to go if most UK companies are to compete with the best in globalised markets.

Investing in a downturn



BP's plans to build new capacity at plants such as Saltend in Hull (above), at a time of chronic oversupply, have provoked criticism PHOTOGRAPH: SEAN SPENCER

BP to spend £500m on chemical plants

Terry Macalister

BRITISH Petroleum gave a boost to the north of England and Scotland yesterday with plans to invest £500 million in new chemical plants.

But the City questioned the wisdom of building new capacity at a time of chronic chemical oversupply. Analysts pointed to profits at BP Chemicals crashing by 50 per cent over the last nine months and last night BP shares fell 22p to 891p.

BP will create 3,100 jobs during the construction phase to 2002 but the plants will only employ 225 permanent staff, and 150 other BP employees will lose their jobs in Wales when the Baglan Bay ethanol plant shuts.

BP plans to build new ethylene and ethanol plants at existing BP sites in Grangemouth and Hull. An existing ethylene pipeline from Grangemouth to Teesside will be extended to Hull.

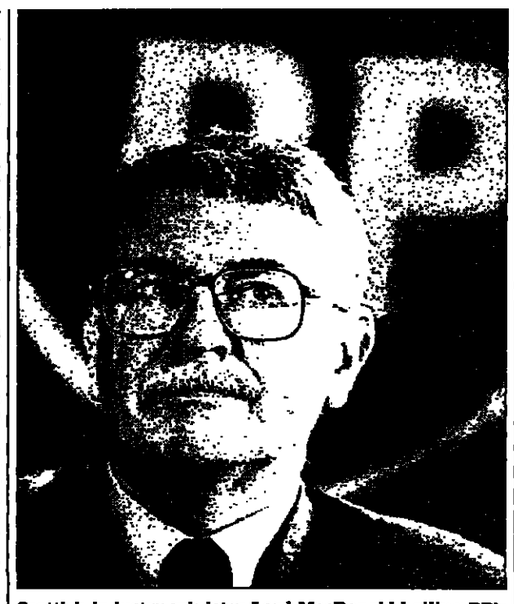
Ethylene is used in the production of many other industrial chemicals and plastics. Ethanol is a solvent widely used in cosmetics, pharmaceuticals and detergents.

The oil group dismissed concerns about the market, arguing investment would boost mid-cycle earnings by £85 million per annum, mainly through reduced production and logistics costs.

Over recent years BP, the third largest petrochemical group in the world, has been busy rationalising. It has lost 1.75 million tonnes of capacity through plant closures and sale of assets.

Chief executive John Browne said: "This is an important step in the development of our European chemicals business. This investment will help BP Chemicals to retain and improve its competitive position in the European market."

But Alan Marshall, an energy analyst with Robert Fleming Securities, said it would be seen as unhelpful within the industry at a time when demand from the key Asia market had collapsed.



Scottish industry minister Lord MacDonald hailing BP's 'vote of confidence' at a press conference yesterday

"It is not unusual to invest in a downturn so you can be more resilient in recession. But most people take the view that the last thing needed at present is new kit [plants]."

The new projects will capitalise on the £1 billion BP has invested since 1990 in efficient, integrated oil, gas and petrochemical manufacturing at Grangemouth. An increasing quantity of liquid gas feedstocks will become available from the North Sea after the year 2000.

The Government's approval of construction of a combined heat and power plant for the Grangemouth site was cited as an important factor in BP's investment decision.

BP is already building two new plants at Grangemouth, one for polyethylene which is used in soft plastics and another for polypropylene used for computer casing and harder plastics.

Gus MacDonald, business and industry minister, said the company's decision to pump £300million into Grangemouth was "a vote of confidence" in Scottish industry. "It should secure Grangemouth's position as one of the top petrochemical sites in Europe," he said.

BP, due to take over rival Amoco of the US by year-end, last week reported a 35 per cent fall in third-quarter profits. All three of its leading divisions have come under pressure from low oil prices and economic uncertainty.

The chemicals division saw profits fall from £141 million to £66 million, but BP said it was affected by special conditions including unscheduled maintenance shutdowns and legal settlements.

Failures cause Falklands oil fever to cool

Terry Macalister

HOPES of oil riches off the Falklands Islands which helped trigger a war between Britain and Argentina could prove unfounded.

Oil company Shell is now giving the region one last chance.

The Borgny Dolphin rig, which has notched up six failures for a variety of oil companies, will be withdrawn from the south Atlantic if Shell draws another blank with the well it is now drilling.

Should the latest attempt prove to be another failure, it will effectively end oil fever which drove up the shares of companies like Desire Petroleum created solely to explore off the Falklands.

Oil companies have found traces of hydrocarbons, but in an era of rock-bottom oil prices no one is keen to spend money in an area which shows little sign of yielding significant oil.

But while Shell has failed so far to meet expectations off the Falklands, it has struck lucky elsewhere in South America.

It has made a big gas discovery in Peru, raising hopes that Shell will patch up its row with the Lima government and restart its $4 billion Camisea project.

The Anglo-Dutch company and its partner Mobil stormed out of Camisea on July 15 saying there was no point in proceeding because a proposed pipeline tariff would make the project uneconomic.

But the new discovery on Pagoreni-1 in block 75 of the Peruvian jungle gives Shell the potential to bring greater economies of scale to nearby Camisea, already Latin America's richest gas reserve.

Shell insists it is too early to say how many reserves lie in place.

But industry experts say the find is highly encouraging.

And Shell admits it is already looking at the "synergies" between block 75 and the Camisea blocks 88A and 88B which it has been gradually running down in the light of the tariff dispute.

A Shell spokesman admitted: "We would still like to do the [Camisea] project."

Shell is in desperate need of good news after reporting a 56 per cent collapse in third-quarter net profits to $841 million, far worse than City analysts had expected.

Ciba in £3.6bn Swiss link-up

Nicholas Bannister, Chief Business Correspondent

TWO Swiss companies which already dominate the speciality chemicals industry are planning to merge through a £3.67 billion deal.

Ciba Speciality Chemicals and Clariant yesterday announced that they planned to create a combined group with annual sales of £7.79 billion and an annual research and development budget of £281 million.

However they expect to axe up to 3,000 jobs outside Switzerland as part of efforts to achieve annual savings of £260 million by 2001. This would represent about 5 per cent of the current combined workforce of 55,000, of which 2,800 are employed in the UK.

The industry is consolidating rapidly and both Ciba and Clariant are themselves the results of big mergers within the past four years.

A year after Ciba-Geigy and Sandoz merged in 1996 to form Novartis, the world's third largest drugs company, Ciba Speciality Chemicals was spun off as a separately listed company. This year it acquired Britain's Allied Colloids for £1.42 billion, fighting off a rival bidder from the US. Clariant was spun off from Sandoz in 1995, ahead of the deal with Ciba-Geigy, and last year merged with Hoechst's speciality chemical business.

Ciba and Clariant said that their merger would create the world's largest speciality chemicals group. It would be called Clariant, but use Ciba's distinctive butterfly logo.

Rolf Schweizer of Clariant will become chairman while Rolf Meyer of Ciba will become deputy chairman and chief executive.

The merger has to win shareholder approval and be cleared by regulatory authorities. When it is complete, former Clariant shareholders will own about 54 per cent of the new combine, with Ciba shareholders owning the rest.

OFT offers plea-bargain for companies who come clean

Dan Atkinson

PRICE-rigging companies are to be encouraged to plea-bargain with the Office of Fair Trading to avoid multi-million pound fines that could swipe up to 10 per cent of their sales revenue, the Guardian has learned.

Those who "put their hands up" to anti-competitive practices may escape tough penalties under a new regime to be introduced in 16 months' time.

An OFT video, to be sent to the 1,000 top companies, will demonstrate different punishments for those co-operating with the OFT against those that deny wrong-doing.

Under the Competition Bill, due to receive the Royal Assent today, John Bridgeman, Director-General of Fair Trading, will be empowered to levy spot fines of up to 10 per cent of sales on companies engaging in anti-competitive activity. This will replace the present slow-moving set-up in which the OFT and the Restrictive Practices Court can take well over a year to uncover misdemeanours.

The tough new powers will bring the OFT into line with the powers exercised by the European Union's DG4 competition directorate.

A number of the 50 new staff being recruited will be skilled in the legal and other aspects of dawn raids on suspected price-fixers. Until now, OFT personnel have been only observers during DG4 raids.

The OFT will have the power to raid premises and demand paperwork and the director-general will be able to impose fines instantly. Plea-bargaining will take place within the OFT, and companies that admit being members of cartels will be able to "bargain down" the level of the fine.

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Tennis

Rusedski finds a game to reach the top

Stephen Bierley on the range of strokes that is creating a real challenge to Sampras

IT WAS, understandably, the 135mph ace on second serve in the second set which had the 14,000 spectators in the Palais Omnisports buzzing with excitement on Sunday as Greg Rusedski achieved the victory of his 25-year-old life against the world No. 1 Pete Sampras in the Paris Indoor Open final.

But the serve of the match occurred earlier. Having broken the American for a 5-4 lead, Rusedski clinched the first set with a heavily sliced ace of barely 100mph which slid across and through the great man's defences with no more venom than a butterfly.

Sampras had been expecting the full monty down the centre and Rusedski's subterfuge was akin to a midfield player nutmegging a central defender to score. Sampras was mortified.

Croatia's Goran Ivanisevic remains the man most likely to top the ace count any season, but Rusedski will never be far behind because he has developed a variety of pace and angle which perhaps only Sampras can match.

Obviously indoor tennis suits the Briton, with no wind or awkwardly positioned sun. In five matches last week he lost his serve only three times out of 59 and got 58 per cent of his first serves in.

So he joined an illustrious body of men who have won this title over the past decade: Sampras, Andre Agassi, Boris Becker and Stefan Edberg, all of them Grand Slam winners.

And that, essentially, is Rusedski's main goal, with Wimbledon the obvious venue. It is not fanciful, given Tim Henman's continuing progress, to suppose that he too may challenge for the greatest prize. Yet Rusedski remains the more likely Briton to raise the trophy one July.

Henman undoubtedly has the greater natural talent; his fellow professionals frequently take time out to watch him play. But Rusedski has a single-mindedness and sheer cussedness which ultimately make him more likely to succeed.

He fancied his chances this year before the fall at Queen's put him out of the running. The decision to play at all, albeit wrong-headed, illustrated his profound desire for success and recognition.

Unlike Henman, Rusedski is not a locker-room favourite. He is pretty much a loner but the relationship with his new coach, the Dutchman Sven Groeneveld, appears to be lifting him to a higher plane, at least judging by his semi-final and final victories against Russia's Yevgeny Kafelnikov and Sampras.

Suddenly the Rusedski backhand, normally more sliced than a year's supply of salami at a delicatessen, was employing successful top-spin. There were ground strokes which displayed an unsuspected deftness of touch. Was his coach Sven or Svengali? It is surely a question of confidence and self-belief. And such victories as this, after six previous defeats against Sampras stretching back to Wimbledon three years ago, can only add to Rusedski's assurance and conviction.

It seems to be doing so already. "To get to the final here [Stockholm] I have to beat Sampras again, and having defeated him definitely gives me a psychological edge," he said. "I know Pete really wanted to win and there was a lot on the line."

Understandably Sampras bristled at the thought of Rusedski challenging him next year for the No. 1 spot, and even after Sunday's victory it still seems a little fantastic. But so did the thought, 18 months ago, of him reaching a Grand Slam final.

● Richard Krajicek, the 1996 Wimbledon champion, has had surgery on a torn left-knee cartilage. The Dutchman, who won in Stuttgart nine days ago but pulled out of the Paris Open, hopes to be back on court for a tournament in Sydney on January 11.



In with a shout . . . Greg Rusedski sets up his tilt at Pete Sampras in Paris by beating Yevgeny Kafelnikov JACK DABAGHIAN

Jaded Sampras continues quest to out-rule Connors

Marcus Christenson in Stockholm

PETE SAMPRAS looked jaded when he arrived here yesterday to continue his quest to be the world No. 1 for a sixth consecutive year.

The American accepted a wild card for the Scania Stockholm Open on Friday and has looked possessed by the prospect of beating the record of Jimmy Connors, who held the top spot five times between 1974 and 1978.

This week's event will be Sampras's sixth tournament in as many weeks; he has not played so often since 1990. Had he won in Paris on Sunday he would have a healthy lead over Marcelo Rios but he now needs to make an impact here to hold off the Chilean, who this week plays in Santiago.

Slovakia's Karol Kucera and Britain's Tim Henman had been the only top-10 players in the field here. However, Greg Rusedski's victory over Sampras in the Paris final has catapulted the British No. 2 on to the tour's most wanted list, and tomorrow he faces the German Tommy Haas while Sampras plays Jason Stoltenberg of Australia.

Racing

McCoy facing Hennessy ban over whip use

Chris Hawkins

TONY McCOY, the champion jump jockey, is facing a minimum 14-day ban after being referred to the Jockey Club's disciplinary committee by the Fontwell stewards, who yesterday found him guilty of using his whip with excessive frequency on opening race winner Bamapour.

McCoy has already incurred suspensions totalling 15 days for whip abuse this year and any further offence means that, under the totting-up rule, he is automatically sent to Portman Square.

If the disciplinary committee agrees with the findings of the Fontwell stewards McCoy is bound to be handed a lengthy suspension of not less than 14 days and probably in the region of 20 days.

Four jockeys have previously been dealt with under this rule. Timmy Murphy was banned for 20 days, Tom Jenks 22 days, Vic Deering 21 days and Derek McGaffin for 21 days.

McCoy's case will come up "sometime next week", according to a Jockey Club spokesperson, which means he is almost certain to miss the Hennessy Gold Cup at Newbury on November 28.

He was tight lipped after yesterday's incident and simply said: "I'm too embarrassed to comment."

Major Jeremy Ker, the stewards' secretary at Fontwell, said: "He hit the horse nine times on the run-in, the first five of which were fairly forceful."

McCoy expressed views of victimisation and threatened to "give up racing and take up golf" after being banned by the Newton Abbot stewards on August 16 for using his whip with excessive force just a day after he had been suspended by the Stratford stewards for unreasonable frequency. Altogether he was stood down for six days then.

Earlier he got three days at Stratford on May 8 and six days, extended from four on appeal, after what many observers regarded as an inspirational finish to win on Pridwell at Aintree.

McCoy is due to ride Cyfor Malta in Saturday's Murphy's Gold Cup at Cheltenham, the race formerly known as the Mackeson Gold Cup, and with 17 declared at yesterday's forfeit stage it promises to be the most competitive since Fred Rimell's Chatham beat 16 rivals in 1970.

Or Royal, one of Martin Pipe's three entries, and Senor El Betrutti head the weights with 12 stone.

Senor El Betrutti will be trying to win the race for the second year running but has 28lb more to shoulder this time and is facing a formidable task despite running an encouraging fourth to Super Tactics on his reappearance at Wincanton last month.

Another former winner is Pipe's Challenger du Luc who has 11st 13lb — 24lb more than when successful two years ago.

Cyfor Malta appears to be the pick of the Pipe trio with 11st 3lb and is 2-1 favourite with Hill's, but the Cathcart winner is only a five-year-old and no horse under the age of six has ever won this competitive handicap in the 38-year history of the race.

The ante-post value seems to be the 16-1 available with Hill's about Dr Leunt, who has a massive 26lb pull with Cyfor Malta for a three-and-a-half lengths beating in the Cathcart Chase at Cheltenham in March.

Sarah Hobbs, wife of trainer Peter, confirmed last night that Dr Leunt is a definite runner but that no jockey has yet been booked.

"Dr Leunt loves soft ground and the more rain the better," said Mrs Hobbs. "He needed the run and the ground was too fast for him when he was sixth to Royal Event at Stratford last month."

Richard Dunwoody was announced on Sunday as the rider of Challenger du Luc, but the decision of Michael Hourigan to run Dunwoody's regular partner Dorans Pride in the Sean Graham Chase at Ayr on Saturday has thrown the proverbial spanner in the works.

Hourigan commented: "The plan was originally to run Dorans Pride at Punchestown next month, but he's so well that we've decided to go for the Ayr race."

Newbury meeting with guide to the form

	CHRIS HAWKINS	TOP FORM
1.20	Bold Galt	Baranov (nb)
1.50	Dawn Leader	Whip Hand
2.20	Sounds Fyne	Moon Devil
2.50	Zafarabad	Zafarabad
3.20	Katarino	River Frontier
3.50	What's Your Story	Jet Boy

Oval, left-handed circuit of 1⅝m with 255yds run-in. Wide and galloping in nature with easy bends.
Going: Soft. ★ Denotes blinkers.
Seven day winners: None.
Blinkered first time: 3.20 Shergenzar. Visored: 1.20 Chasing The Moon.
Figures in brackets after horse's name denote days since last outing. F.Flat.

1.20 SEVEN BARROWS NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE 2m 110yds £4,720 (7 declared)

1 4000- Bold Galt (F26) J Fanshawe 7-11-10 — J Osborne 89
2 0P730- Dealie (F21) M Blanshard 7-11-7 — D Gallagher 85
3 1P-052 Baranov (16) H Howe 5-11-2 — A P McCoy ●88
4 0/3P-P Councillor (17) Miss A Boyd 7-11-0 — Mr A Fitzgerald 87
5 0/00-0 Chasing The Moon (23) G Balding 6-10-8 — B Fenton ★ 84
6 0P00-6 Stone Ridge (F27) J Pearce 6-10-7 — N Williamson 86
7 0P/P-F Lizzys First (28) B Millman 6-10-0 — D Salter (3) —

Betting: 7-4 Baranov, 2-1 Bold Galt, 5-1 Stone Ridge, 6-1 Dealie, 12-1 Councillor, 20-1 Chasing The Moon, 50-1 Lizzys First.

FORM GUIDE – Bold Galt: Held up, went 2nd 3 out, every chance 2 out, weakened last, 10th of 12, well behind The Proms at Sandown 2m5f hcap hdle, Sft. Dealie: Behind from 3 out, tailed off, last of 11, well behind Erling at Taunton 2m1f hcap hdle, Sft. Baranov: Led, left clear 4th, ridden approaching 2 out, headed last, not quicken, 2nd of 11, 3l behind Selli at Wincanton 2m nov hdle, Gd. Councillor: Held up and behind, lost touch from 4th, tailed off when pulled up 3 out in race won by Last Laugh at Worcester 2m cond hcap hdle, Sft. Chasing The Moon: Held up, always in rear, tailed off, 9th of 15, well behind Santeblass at Cheltenham 2m nov hdle, Gd. Stone Ridge: Held up, jumped slowly 4th and 5th, soon ridden and behind, last of 6, 44l behind Little Joe at Wincanton 2m nov hcap hdle, Gd-Fm. Lizzys First: Behind when fell at the 2nd in race won by Mazileo at N Abbot 2m1f nov hdle, Gd.

1.50 PENWOOD NOVICE CHASE 2m 1f £3,522 (4 declared)

1 8082-1 Whip Hand (17) (D) J FitzGerald 7-11-7 — A P McCoy ●90
2 /1132- Dawn Leader (223) (D) (BF) J Old 7-11-2 — C Llewellyn —
3 51220- Star Rage (F228) (D) D Elsworth 8-11-2 — P Holley —
4 3045-0 Tree Creeper (14) A Turnell 6-11-2 — L Harvey —

Betting: 6-4 Whip Hand, 2-1 Dawn Leader, 9-4 Star Rage, 16-1 Tree Creeper.

FORM GUIDE – Whip Hand: Prominent, led 7th, headed briefly 3 out, ridden clear approaching last, won by 5l from Good Vibes at M Rasen 2m1f nov ch, Sft. Dawn Leader: Mistakes, pushed along, headway 8th, went 2nd last, stayed on, just failed, 2nd of 10, sh hd behind Fataliste at Ascot 2m nov hdle, Gd-Sft. Star Rage: Kicked at the start, behind from 5th, tailed off, 25th of 27, well behind Blowing Wind at Cheltenham 2m1f nov hdle, Gd. Tree Creeper: Mistake 2nd, blundered and unseated rider at the 8th in race won by Village King at Cheltenham 2m4f hcap ch, Gd.

2.20 WILTSHIRE HANDICAP CHASE 2m 4f £7,023 (5 declared)

1 5/30/- Lightning Lad (236) J King 10-11-12 — A P McCoy —
2 62124- Moon Devil (226) M Campion 8-11-2 — B Powell ●90
3 23/11- Wise King (248) (C) (D) J Old 8-10-11 — C Llewellyn 88
4 F812-4 Sounds Fyne (17) (CD) J FitzGerald 9-10-10 — M A Fitzgerald 89
5 03/388 Southampton (13) (D) G Balding 8-10-1 — N Williamson ★ 84

Betting: 6-4 Wise King, 2-1 Sounds Fyne, 5-1 Lightning Lad, 13-2 Moon Devil, 12-1 Southampton.

FORM GUIDE – Lightning Lad: Chased leader 8th until mistake 8th, ridden 12th, weakening when unseated rider four out in race won by Barton at Ascot 2m3f hcap ch, Sft. Moon Devil: Led to 11th, led 2 out, beaten when hit rail, 4th of 8, 31l behind Streamy at Ayr 2m4f nov ch, Gd. Wise King: Prominent, led 10th to 11th, led 2 out, driven out, won by nk from Gospel Hour at Sandown 2m4f nov ch, Gd. Sounds Fyne: Prominent, mistakes 11th and 13th, weakened 16th, blundered three out, 4th of 8, 17l behind Stone Options at M Rasen 2m6f hcap ch, Hvy. Southampton: Always behind, ridden 8th, mistake 10th, soon tailed off, last of 6, 23l behind Castlemount at Cheltenham 2m4f hcap ch, Gd.

2.50 NEWBURY AUTUMN HURDLE 2m 110yds £5,095 (5 declared)

1 111- Cavilon (208) (D) K Bailey 4-11-7 — N Williamson —
2 113- Flagship Uberalles (F209) (D) P Nicholls 4-11-7 — J Tizzard 88
3 3114F- Shalbour (F9) (D) G L Moore 5-11-7 — J R Kavanagh 87
4 11141- Zafarabad (164) (CD) D Nicholson 4-11-7 — R Johnson ●90
5 1131-P Sound Appeal (D) (D) G McCourt 4-11-2 — E Husband 86

Betting: 5-4 Zafarabad, 5-2 Flagship Uberalles, 5-1 Cavilon, 6-1 Shalbour, 12-1 Sound Appeal.

FORM GUIDE – Cavilon: Beat Heganean by 1l at Exeter 2m1f hdle, Hvy. Flagship Uberalles: In touch, led 2 out, headed before last, kept on well, 3rd of 15, 1l behind Zafarabad at Punchestown 2m hdle, Sft. Shalbour: In rear until fell at the 3rd in race won by French Ballerina at Cheltenham 2m nov hdle, Gd-Sft. Zafarabad: Tracked leaders, effort and led before last, led on well, won by 1l from Nomadic at Punchestown 2m hdle, Sft. Sound Appeal: Behind until pulled up 2 out in race won by Tyrolean Dream at Chepstow 2m hcap hdle, Gd.

3.20 CRUX EASTON JUVENILE NOVICE HURDLE 3YO 2m 110yds £3,847 (7 declared)

1 Bembo (F14) G L Moore 11-0 — A P McCoy —
2 Engine Gold (F10) A Turnell 11-0 — L Harvey —
3 04P-3 Katarino (84) N Henderson 11-0 — M A Fitzgerald —
4 Noble Demand (F28) G Balding 11-0 — B Fenton —
5 6 Shergenzar (16) (BF) D Sherwood 11-0 — J Osborne ★ 85
6 Mrs Pickles (F86) M Usher 10-9 — C Llewellyn —
7 5 River Frontier (18) M Usher 10-9 — B Powell ●90

Betting: 9-4 Katarino, 3-1 Noble Demand, 7-2 Engine Gold, 4-1 Shergenzar, 14-1 Bembo, 16-1 River Frontier, 20-1 Mrs Pickles.

FORM GUIDE – Bembo: Headway over 3f out, weakened over 2f out, 8th of 13, 27l behind Tom Paddington at Bath 1m4f mdn, Hvy. Engine Gold: Held up, headway 2f out, ridden to lead well inside final furlong, ran on, won by nk from Chevalet at Leicester 1m hcap, Gd-Fm. Katarino: Third of 9, 4l behind Aficion at Auteuil 2m1f ch, Gd. Noble Demand: Behind final 4f, 11th of 15, 30l behind Silladdle at Newbury 1m2f hcap, Hvy. Mrs Pickles: Led, ridden over 2f out, headed inside final furlong, unable to quicken, 2nd of 6, 3l behind Lady Fein at Folkestone 2m hcap, Gd-Fm. River Frontier: Behind from 4th, 5th of 11, well behind Dangerous Precedent, with Shergenzar (gave 5lb) 6th, well behind, at Ascot 2m nov hdle, Gd-Sft.

3.50 'HEAD ON' NEWSLETTER HANDICAP HURDLE 3m 110yds £5,021 (5 declared)

1 2131-3 Run For Dante (13) G Hubbard 8-11-10 — Michael Brennan 86
2 2421P- Old Rowel (F144) D Murray Smith 7-11-4 — D Gallagher 88
3 112P-2 What's Your Story (17) (D) P R Webber 9-11-4 — R Garritty 87
4 501-1F Jet Boys (16) (CD) Mrs J Pitman 8-10-12 — A P McCoy ●90
5 34035- Flying Gunner (196) (D) D Nicholson 7-10-6 — R Johnson 85

Betting: 9-4 What's Your Story, 5-2 Old Rowel, 3-1 Jet Boys, 6-1 Flying Gunner, 7-1 Run For Dante.

FORM GUIDE – Run For Dante: Led, mistake 2nd, headed next, outpaced after 3 out, stayed on approaching last, 3rd of 7, 7l behind The Proms at Cheltenham 2m5f hcap hdle, Gd. Old Rowel: Raced wide, chased leaders, hit 5th, outpaced 7th, behind when pulled up 4 out in race won by The Proms at Aintree 3m hcap hdle, Gd-Sft. What's Your Story: With leaders, ridden and hit 8th, every chance when hit two out, beaten when mistake last, 2nd of 14, 12l behind Lord Khalice at M Rasen 3m hcap hdle, Gd. Jet Boys: Led until fell at the 1st in race won by Danymore Mist at Wincanton 3m1f nov ch, Gd. Flying Gunner: Chased leaders until hard ridden and weakened approaching 3 out, 5th of 7, 33l behind Eau De Cologne at Ascot 3m hcap hdle, Sft.

Sedgefield runners and riders

	TONY PALEY	TOP FORM
1.00	Anuaro Again	Dockmaster
1.30	Rushen Raider	Dont Forget Curtis
2.00	Noosa Sound	Noosa Sound
2.30	Fairfields Prince	Fairfields Prince
3.00	Fen Terrier	Fen Terrier
3.30	Xaipete	Xaipete (nap)
4.00	Cathedral Belle	More Champagne

Undulating, sharp left-handed circuit of 1¼m with 200yds run-in.
Going: Good to Soft. ★ Denotes blinkers.
Seven day winners: None.
Blinkered first time or visored: None.

1.00 JOHN WADE HAULAGE SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE 3m 3f 110yds £1,511 (8 declared)

1 /FPP6- Anuaro Again (174) Mrs M Reveley 9-12-0 — Mr A Dempsey (3) 85
2 P54 PP Dockmaster (12) Miss K Milligan 7-11-11 — D McPhail (5) ●90
3 3-1P06 Rober (17) R Thomson 11-10-12 — D Parker 87
4 320530 Peep O Day (12) A J Lockwood 7-10-7 — Miss A Deniel 88
5 P04024 Real Fire (12) (BF) M Meagher 4-10-5 — C McCormack (5) 88
6 /50PP- Young Wolf (391) D Eddy 10-10-4 — A Dobbin —
7 -59468 Outwalk Crossett (56) E Cane 13-10-0 — Mr E Babington (7) 84
8 0P-P Primrose Hill (17) H Alexander 5-10-0 — S Durack (5) 82

Betting: 9-4 Peep O Day, 5-2 Anuaro Again, 7-2 Real Fire, 9-2 Dockmaster, 8-1 Rober, 25-1 Young Wolf.

1.30 STANLEY RACING SERIES FINAL HANDICAP HURDLE 2m 5f 110yds £6,678 (6 declared)

1 282021 Glanmire (28) (CD) G M Moore 7-11-13 — K Hanely (7) 88
2 1-5223 Old Hush Wing (10) (CD) (BF) Mrs M Reveley 5-11-11 — Mr R Hughes (5) 88
3 1/2-61 Rushen Raider (42) (CD) K Hogg 6-11-6 — M Foster 85
4 04-433 Tashiba Talk (F11) (CD) B Ellison 6-11-2 — A Dobbin 87
5 -31640 Hunting Slane (12) C Grant 6-10-0 — D Supple 89
6 4-0406 Dont Forget Curtis (104) Mrs K Lamb 6-10-0 — Miss S Lamb (7) ●90

Betting: 2-1 Old Hush Wing, 11-4 Rushen Raider, 7-2 Glanmire, Tashiba Talk, 14-1 Hunting Slane, 50-1 Dont Forget Curtis.

2.00 PADDOCK BOOKMAKERS HANDICAP CHASE (TRIFECTA RACE) 3m 3f £3,625 (9 declared)

1 13617- Noosa Sound (158) (CD) (BF) L Lungo 8-11-10 — R Supple ●90
2 U16F1 Apache Raider (186) (CD) F Murphy 6-11-8 — A Thornton 87
3 00114- Gale Force (181) (C) P Beaumont 7-11-7 — B Grattan (5) 87
4 1322P- Callerdoy (192) (BF) D Lamb 8-11-7 — D Parker 86
5 74P-F3 D'Arblay Street (17) (CD) W Kemp 9-11-6 — S Durack (5) ★ 85
6 P3/32- German Legend (171) D Lamb 8-11-0 — J Marks 86
7 P53-21 Zambrano (12) (CD) R Ford 7-10-12 — Mrs. C Ford 85
8 225-3 Kilby Bank (27) (BF) J Howard Johnson 9-10-9 — A S Smith 88
9 /00F32 West Bitch (4) B Ellison 10-10-1 — A Dobbin 85

Betting: 7-2 Noosa Sound, 4-1 Apache Raider, Callerdoy, 9-2 Gale Force, 7-1 Zambrano, 10-1 German Legend, Kilby Bank.

2.30 HENNESSY COGNAC SPECIAL SERIES NOVICE HURDLE 2m 1f £5,602 (11 declared)

1 211 Fairfields Prince (10) G M Moore 6-11-7 — J Callaghan ●90
2 0-3 Atlantic Power (12) W Storey 5-11-0 — C McCormack —
3 Classical Dance (F24) Mrs M Reveley 4-11-0 — G Lee —
4 0 Fancy A Fortune (17) E W Tuer 4-11-0 — K Johnson 84
5 21/60- Foreshore Man (244) B Rothwell 7-11-0 — A S Smith 85
6 523-30 Gaelic Probe (16) M Bailey 4-11-0 — A Dobbin 86
7 32243- J J Baboo (167) (BF) M Hammond 5-11-0 — B Harding 85
8 057-5 Scotmail Boy (30) (BF) J Howard Johnson 5-11-0 — A Thornton 82
9 Tessajee (F82) Miss J A Camacho 6-11-0 — S Durack —
10 2/40- Miry Leader (F127) V Thompson 5-10-9 — Mr M Thompson —
11 0/1- Twenty Winks (244) J J Quinn 5-10-9 — L Wyer —

Betting: 6-4 Fairfields Prince, 9-2 Tessajee, 5-1 J J Baboo, 7-1 Gaelic Probe, 8-1 Twenty Winks, 12-1 Scotmail Boy, 16-1 Classical Dance.

3.00 NOVEMBER NOVICE CHASE 2m 5f £2,941 (8 declared)

1 2/P-12 Bluewager (31) (D) (BF) B Ellison 7-11-10 — L Temple (7) 89
2 -06051 Nosam (12) (CD) N Mason 6-11-10 — R Guest 85
3 04064/ Donnegale (542) T Tate 8-11-4 — J Callaghan —
4 PPOPP/ Dougal (617) B Rothwell 7-11-4 — R Supple —
5 1003-3 Lord Rafiab (52) (CD) J Wade 7-11-4 — A S Smith 85
6 0134-2 Fen Terrier (12) (BF) F Murtagh 6-10-13 — A Dobbin ●90
7 /06P0- Flows The Boss (193) Mrs J Brown 5-10-12 — D Bentley —
8 0-0010 Sliema Creek (17) (CD) V Thompson 4-10-11 — Mr M Thompson 85

Betting: 2-1 Nosam, 5-2 Bluewager, 7-2 Fen Terrier, 5-1 Lord Rafiab, 10-1 Sliema Creek, 25-1 Donnegale.

3.30 BLMS HANDICAP CHASE 2m 110yds £3,397 (6 declared)

1 44-125 Last Try (28) (CD) B Rothwell 7-11-10 — A S Smith 88
2 2416P Cover Point (10) (C) (D) J FitzGerald 7-10-12 — J Callaghan —
3 436221 Xaipete (18) (CD) R Mason 6-10-9 — R Guest ●90
4 4-1P06 Wild Brook (F11) (CD) B Ellison 8-10-4 — A Dobbin ★ 88
5 4/824/ Fingerhill (683) V Thompson 9-10-2 — Mr M Thompson —
6 346144 Somerby (4) (D) I Park 11-10-0 — L O'Hara 84

Betting: 7-4 Xaipete, 2-1 Last Try, 9-2 Cover Point, 8-1 Wild Brook, 10-1 Somerby, 16-1 Fingerhill.

4.00 LEVY BOARD MARES' ONLY HANDICAP HURDLE 2m 5f 110yds £2,063 (11 declared)

1 /630-4 Kilmarnyra Girl (F25) J Parkes 8-11-12 — A Thornton 85
2 1400-3 Topothenorthracing (17) (CD) P Beaumont 8-11-8 — B Grattan (5) 86
3 P322-5 Hurst Flyer (10) F Murtagh 6-11-8 — A Dobbin 86
4 55-312 Cathedral Belle (16) (CD) Mrs M Reveley 4-11-7 — G Lee 83
5 /62-56 After Grace (4) N Mason 8-11-6 — R Guest 86
6 0155-4 Just Nesh (24) R Nixon 5-11-2 — C McCormack (5) 86
7 531 Maremma (10) Miss K Milligan 4-10-9 — F Leahy 79
8 03-330 More Champagne (10) Mrs D Thomson 8-10-4 — D Parker ●90
9 /168/F Tancred Mischief (F6) (D) D Barker 7-10-0 — R Hanolty (7) 83
10 P4-25P Gemolly (11) R Barr 5-10-0 — N Smith 82
11 /000P- Glenn Star (288) S Kettlewell 5-10-0 — N Horrocks (5) 86

Betting: 5-2 Cathedral Belle, 7-2 Hurst Flyer, 9-2 Topothenorthracing, 8-1 Maremma, 10-1 Kilmarnyra Girl.

Huntingdon Jackpot card

	CHRIS HAWKINS	TOP FORM
12.40	Burn Out	Burn Out
1.10	Saddlers' Roe	Saddlers' Roe
1.40	Karenastino (nap)	The Full Monty
2.10	Indiana Princess	Americanval
2.40	Sierra Bay	Sierra Bay
3.10	Cherokee Chief (nb)	Simple Arithmetic
3.40	Forever Noble	Forever Noble

Oval, right-handed track of 1½m with 200yds run-in. Perfectly flat with easy bends.
Going: Good to Soft. ★ Denotes blinkers.
Seven day winners: None.
Blinkered first time or visored: None.
Figures in brackets after horse's name denote days since last outing. F.Flat.

12.40 KIMBOLTON NOVICE HURDLE (DIV 1) 2m 110yds £2,478 (13 declared)

101 2 Ball Strong (16) G Hubbard 4-10-12 — A Maguire —
102 E2/64- Burn Out (172) (D) J Gifford 6-10-12 — L Aspell ●90
103 Cezanne (F794) M J Roberts 9-10-12 — G Bradley —
104 0- Chiegachgook (185) H Webb 4-10-12 — S McNeill 83
105 00/ Cool Hill (F46) J Pearce 7-10-12 — M Mooney (7) —
106 Digby Mrs D Haine 5-10-12 — R Thornton —
107 Flou Du Bois (F373) Miss H Knight 5-10-12 — J Culloty —
108 400PP- Go Britannia (188) F Jordan 5-10-12 — T J Murphy 86
109 00/0-5 Shannon Shoon (12) Mrs S Smith 6-10-12 — G F Ryan (3) 84
110 05 Sturgeon (17) K Morgan 4-10-12 — Mr R Forristal (7) 85
111 Subtle Influence (F125) N Callaghan 4-10-12 — R Dunwoody —
112 Swinging The Blues (F15) C Dwyer 4-10-12 — R Farrant —
113 P-0 Twin Time (26) J King 4-10-7 — L Cummins (5) 87

Betting: 5-2 Subtle Influence, 4-1 Burn Out, 9-2 Ball Strong, 7-1 Cezanne, 8-1 Swinging The Blues, 12-1 Sturgeon, 14-1 Digby, Flou Du Bois, Shannon Shoon.

1.10 SOUTHOE JUVENILE NOVICE HURDLE 3YO 2m 110yds £2,443 (12 declared)

201 6P6P Another Bewiled (14) A P Jones 10-10 — B Clifford —
202 5 Dontardie (31) J Eustace 10-10 — S McNeill 87
203 20 Iverian (27) C Kellett 10-10 — G Bradley 88
204 0 Last Knight (7) D Arbuthnot 10-10 — R Thornton 84
205 Moon Quest (F25) K Morgan 10-10 — Mr R Forristal (7) —
206 0 New Yorker (7) Miss A Stokell 10-10 — G Tormey ★ 79
207 2 Saddlers' Roe (31) D Nicholson 10-10 — A Maguire ●90
208 Senor Hurst (F88) Mrs P Sly 10-10 — W Marston —
209 The Silk Thief (F15) J Jenkins 10-10 — P Carberry —
210 Blot Nadia (F52) Lord Tymne 10-5 — T J Murphy —
211 Dudeen (F164) T McGovern 10-5 — P Hide —
212 3 Priolette (56) J FitzGerald 10-5 — P Niven 88

Betting: 4-7 Saddlers' Roe, 11-2 Priolette, 10-1 Iverian, 14-1 Senor Hurst, 20-1 Dontardie, Last Knight, Moon Quest.

1.40 ETERNIT-ASPHALTIC PARTNERSHIP HANDICAP CHASE 3m £3,625 (9 declared)

301 06131- Garethson (190) (D) Miss H Knight 7-12-0 — J Culloty 87
302 2032-P Coole Hill (17) (D) D Nicholson 7-11-10 — A Maguire 88
303 4106-1 Bassenhally (18) (D) Mrs P Sly 8-11-8 — W Marston 85
304 411-11 The Full Monty (46) (C) (D) S Sherwood 6-11-8 — G Bradley ●90
305 0-5443 Solo Gent (16) (CD) A P Jones 9-10-6 — R Dunwoody 86
306 FP51/P Big Archie (31) (D) Mrs A J Bowlby 8-10-4 — T J Murphy —
307 46-512 Welsh Silk (12) D Gandolfo 6-10-7 — S Wynne 84
308 2142-4 Karenastino (11) Mrs S Smith 7-10-0 — R Wilkinson (5) 83
309 46331- Ardentbar (211) J W Payne 6-10-0 — R Thornton 85

Betting: 2-1 The Full Monty, 4-1 Bassenhally, 5-1 Garethson, 6-1 Coole Hill, 8-1 Welsh Silk, 12-1 Solo Gent, Karenastino.

2.10 WILLINGHAM HANDICAP HURDLE 2m 110yds £2,600 (15 declared)

401 F3211- Sursum Corda (186) (CD) H Daly 7-12-0 — R Dunwoody 88
402 2P42-3 Classic Eagle (24) (D) Mrs D Haine 5-12-0 — G Bradley 86
403 016-11 Indiana Princess (18) (D) Mrs M Reveley 5-11-13 — P Niven 86
404 041-4 The Newsman (37) Miss S Edwards 6-11-6 — L Aspell 84
405 015- Doyenne (248) Mrs D Haine 4-11-2 — R Thornton 84
406 340P/5 Mim-Lou-And (34) (D) Miss H Knight 6-11-2 — J Culloty —
407 0/134- Americanval (201) (D) (BF) S Mellor 10-11-0 — C Webb ●90
408 21/ Mr Edgar (784) J Gifford 7-10-13 — P Hide —
409 6120-5 Compass Pointer (F52) (CD) J Eustace 5-10-12 — S McNeill 89
410 31PRP- Dowse (260) (D) D McCain 7-10-6 — T J Murphy 86
411 21120/ Zahid (F823) (D) K Burke 7-10-6 — A Maguire —
412 5562P- A Day On The Dub (F11) D Eddy 5-10-3 — P Carberry 85
413 41/3 The Great Flood (18) (D) C Dwyer 5-10-0 — R Farrant 84
414 34RPV Tashreef (585) (D) Mrs S Smith 8-10-0 — G F Ryan (3) —
415 50F0P- Mersoyan (337) F Jordan 5-10-0 — G Tormey —

Betting: 7-2 Indiana Princess, 4-1 Sursum Corda, 13-2 Americanval, 8-1 Mr Edgar, Compass Pointer, 10-1 The Great Flood, 12-1 The Newsman, A Day On The Dub.

2.40 MACER GIFFORD HANDICAP CHASE 2m 4f 110yds £4,926 (7 declared)

501 161P-5 Shining Light (13) (CD) D Nicholson 9-11-10 — A Maguire 85
502 /421F- Headwind (198) (D) J Gifford 7-11-0 — S McNeill 87
503 4/5P4- Distinctive (256) (CD) M Wilkinson 9-10-11 — R Thornton —
504 41UP33 Saskia's Hero (44) (C) (D) J Hetherton 11-10-3 — D Byrne 89
505 1FPP-P Sierra Bay (9) (C) O Sherwood 8-10-0 — J A McCarthy ●90
506 232-U2 Rustic Air (18) (D) J FitzGerald 11-10-0 — P Carberry 87
507 10U-56 Khalidi (24) (C) (D) D Gandolfo 9-10-0 — S Wynne 82

Betting: 11-4 Saskia's Hero, 3-1 Headwind, 4-1 Shining Light, 6-1 Sierra Bay, Rustic Air, 10-1 Distinctive, 14-1 Khalidi.

3.10 TOSELAND NOVICE CHASE 2m 4f 110yds £3,693 (11 declared)

601 43/2-1 Cherokee Chief (18) O Sherwood 7-11-5 — J A McCarthy 89
602 3024-2 Brownes Hill Lad (29) R O'Sullivan 6-10-12 — M Richards 85
603 50P- Lord Max (188) Mrs S Richardson 6-10-12 — J Culloty —
604 2013- Lord York (207) (D) (BF) H Daly 6-10-12 — R Dunwoody —
605 1/FP2- Mareedis (355) (D) S Brookshaw 7-10-12 — S Wynne 87
606 3343P/ Mr Jervis (734) J Gifford 9-10-12 — P Hide —
607 F6/38- Simple Arithmetic (281) K Bailey 10-10-12 — B Wakley (3) ●90
608 5035-P Sol Fosse (12) Mrs S Smith 6-10-12 — R Wilkinson (5) 83
609 22432/ The Captain's Wish (610) D Nicholson 7-10-12 — A Maguire —
610 FB0262 Veryvell (32) Mrs T McInnes Skinner 7-10-12 — T Reed —
611 4P14-2 Brother Of Iris (32) (D) (BF) Mrs M Reveley 5-10-11 — P Niven 88

Betting: 9-4 Cherokee Chief, 5-1 Brother Of Iris, 11-2 Lord York, 13-2 Mareedis, 7-1 The Captain's Wish, 8-1 Brownes Hill Lad, 12-1 Simple Arithmetic.

3.40 KIMBOLTON NOVICE HURDLE (DIV 2) 2m 110yds £2,460 (13 declared)

1 Brownings Boy J Gifford 6-10-12 — L Aspell —
2 2/620- Forever Noble (273) (BF) O Sherwood 5-10-12 — J A McCarthy ●90
3 00- Hippopeus (164) Mrs J Pitman 4-10-12 — D Leahy 79
4 4/ Picket Piece (1123) D Nicholson 7-10-12 — A Maguire —
5 0/ Pirate Minstrel (588) R Champion 6-10-12 — M Richards —
6 P Power Curve (17) Miss S Edwards 5-10-12 — D Burrows (5) —
7 Rear Window (F113) G McCourt 4-10-12 — W Marston —
8 45 Rock Scene (7) A Streeter 6-10-12 — Gary Lyons 82
9 60- Sleight Of Hand (229) J King 5-10-12 — C Maude —
10 5 Strazo (16) Lady Herries 5-10-12 — G Bradley 86
11 Tallow (F137) J Jenkins 4-10-12 — P Carberry —
12 Karzana (F63) A P Jones 4-10-7 — B Clifford —
13 FPP- Leading Note (F18) Miss H Knight 4-10-7 — J Culloty —

Betting: Evens Forever Noble, 6-1 Brownings Boy, 7-1 Strazo, 8-1 Picket Piece, 12-1 Hippopeus, 16-1 Rear Window, Rock Scene, Sleight Of Hand.

KEEPING TRACK
09064 700 +

	COMMENTARY	RESULTS
NEWBURY	141	151
HUNTINGDON	142	152
SEDGEFIELD	143	153
ALL COURSES COMMENTARY	09064 700 140	
ALL COURSES RESULTS	09064 700 150	

[illegible]
The Guardian INTERACTIVE

Results

CARLISLE

1.00 (3m 110yds Hdle): 1, JUST AN EXCUSE, R Johnson (10-1); 2, Fossiemadie Dick (7-1); 3, Glacial Dancer (5-6 fav). 10 ran 8, 10. (J O'Neill) Tote: £19.40; £1.90, £1.80, £1.10. Dual F: £24.80. CSF: £78.00.

1.30 (2m 4f 110yds Ch): 1, ARDENT SCOUT, S Durack (4-1); 2, Strigdale (9-4 fav); 3, Glenbower (3-1). 8 ran 1, 3½. (Mrs S Smith) Tote: £4.80; £3.30; £1.70. Dual F: £10.80. CSF: £11.62.

2.00 (2m 4f 110yds Hdle): 1, HOWLES PATROL, J Supple (16-1); 2, Andy's Lad (2-1 fav); 3, Ilya Prim (10-1). 12 ran 8, 1. (John R Upson) Tote: £14.70; £2.80, £1.80, £3.30. Dual F: £44.00. CSF: £45.85. Tricast: £497.41. Trifecta: £4,911.20. Pool of £889.25 carried forward to Sedgefield today.

2.30 (3m 2f Ch): 1, BETTER TIMES AHEAD, A Dobbin (evens fav); 2, Lord of The West (15-8); 3, Parsons Boy (5-1). 5 ran 8, 15. (N Richards) Tote: £1.90; £1.10, £1.20. Dual F: £1.80. CSF: £3.08.

3.00 (2m 1f Hdle): 1, VALEDICTORY, L Wyer (11-4 fav); 2, Fair And Fancy (11-2); 3, Exalted (9-2). 9 ran 5, 3½. (P Monteith) Tote: £4.10; £1.90, £2.10, £1.30. Dual F: £11.10. CSF: £16.45. Tricast: £58.64.

3.30 (3m 4f 110yds Ch): 1, RED MARAUDER, Richard Guest (7-4 fav); 2, King of The Barren (7-2); 3, Tallymurry Toff (7-2). 5 ran 24, 11. (N Mason) Tote: £2.10; £1.60, £2.20. Dual F: £3.90. CSF: £7.74.

4.00: (2m 1f Flat): 1, BECCA'S ROSE, P Carberry (3-1 fav); 2, Elegant City (9-1); 3, Valigain (4-1). 19 ran 5, 12. (F Murphy) Tote: £4.50; £1.90, £4.40, £2.40. Dual Forecast: £23.30. Computer Straight Forecast: £30.58.

PLACEPOT: £9.10. QUADPOT: £5.70.
JACKPOT: £43,455.00.

FONTWELL

1.15 (2m 2f 110yds Hdle): 1, BAMAPOUR, A P McCoy (2-1); 2, Keep Me In Mind (10-1); 3, Mordanak (12-1). 5-4 fav Brambles Way. 9 ran ¾, ½. (M Pipe) Tote: £3.80; £1.60, £1.60, £1.90. Dual F: £10.60. CSF: £18.45.

1.45 (2m 3f Ch): 1, RAFFLES ROOSTER, N Williamson (11-8 fav); 2, Fiver Less Hassle (6-4); 3, Calvaro (10-1). 4 ran 17, 18. (Miss Venetia Williams) Tote: £2.00; Dual F. £2.60. CSF: £3.64.

2.15 (2m 6f 110yds Hdle): 1, RIVER GOLF DIAMOND, L Cummins (9-2); 2, Mullinar (4-1); 3, Daring King (10-1). 9-4 fav Over The Glen. 8 ran 20, 12. (J Best) Tote: £5.10; £1.40, £1.70, £2.10. Dual Forecast: £11.90. Computer Straight Forecast: £21.67. Tricast: £236.34.

2.45 (3m 2f 110yds Ch): 1, GROSVENOR, R Dunwoody (4-5 Fav); 2, Nazzaro (11-1); 3, Kilmington (14-1). 6 ran 3, dist. (P Nicholls) Tote: £1.90; £1.40, £3.30. Dual F: £10.30. CSF: £9.77.

3.15 (2m 2f Ch): 1, DANTES CAVALIER, R Dunwoody (4-11 fav); 2, Black Statement (3-1); 3, Fraser Carey (10-1). 3 ran 8, dist. (D Gandolfo) Tote: £1.30. Dual F: £1.40. CSF: £1.71.

3.45 (2m 2f 110yds Hdle): 1, ALHOSAAM, A P McCoy (4-5 fav); 2, Derisa (12-1); 3, Copper Coin (4-1). 13 ran 5, 5. (G L Moore) Tote: £2.00; £1.40, £2.70, £1.20. Dual F: £15.60. CSF: £11.93.

PLACEPOT: £54.80. QUADPOT: £8.10.

● Tomorrow's meeting at Worcester has been abandoned because of waterlogging.

Anfield in crisis



Twin set . . . Gérard Houllier, above, is poised to take sole charge with Roy Evans, right, sacrificed if Liverpool jettison the co-manager revolution



A poor cup display tonight may mean the end for loyal Liverpool servant

Report by Ian Ross

Evans teeters on the brink

LIVERPOOL's chairman David Moores is ready to risk enraging the club's less tolerant supporters by extending his bold gamble in shared managerial responsibilities. It may, however, be only a brief stay of execution for the long-serving Roy Evans.

Although Moores is coming under increasing pressure to abandon a controversial system which has Evans working in tandem on first-team affairs with the Frenchman Gérard Houllier, he remains reluctant to dissolve the partnership. But, with Liverpool already below half-way in the Premiership, elimination from the Worthington Cup at the hands of Tottenham at Anfield tonight would possibly leave him with little option.

Despite Moores's loyalty to Evans — a close friend and confidant for many years — it seems inevitable that Houllier will be invited to assume individual and full control before much longer.

It is believed that Evans's future, or lack of one, has been discussed informally by senior members of the Liverpool hierarchy and that his departure from a club he has served for more than three decades, or his move to a less prominent role, will be announced shortly. But, at least until tonight, the pair will jointly accept responsibility for lifting both the morale and the performance of a collection of highly priced and highly paid players who continue to disappoint.

Houllier was installed as Liverpool's joint manager in the summer and was asked to forge an Anglo-French alliance with Evans, who has been in charge at Anfield since January 1994 when he succeeded Graeme Souness.

Although the two men insist their partnership is a viable proposition, one designed to preserve the traditions of a proud club while introducing new ideas and concepts, it remains little more than a marriage of convenience.

A bright opening to the season which briefly saw Liverpool atop the Premiership has given way to an impoverished run which has yielded only six points from eight league fixtures. Fanned by poor performances against allegedly inferior opposition, disquiet has swept like wildfire through Liverpool's normally patient support, constantly provoking vociferous calls for sweeping management changes.

On Saturday, after Liverpool were defeated at home by a severely weakened Derby County, Evans and Houllier's team were jeered loudly at the final whistle.

Although the couple have always promoted a sense of unity during their many joined-at-the-hip public performances, it is believed there have been several differences of opinion lately, mostly relating to tactics and team selection.

Evans is fully aware it will be he and not Houllier who will suffer if — or rather when — the time comes to concede that in football management two heads are never better than one. The first indication that he may now be willing to stand down to give Houllier free rein came on Saturday evening with the admission that his fate lies in the hands of others.

"We are trying to do a job to the best of our abilities," he said, "but if some people don't think it is working out, it is up to those people to take a decision."

Although Liverpool promised him employment for life when his managerial skills were first called into question last season, it now seems Evans would opt for a clean break if offered the chance to leave Anfield with his dignity intact.

Meanwhile he has hit back at former Liverpool players, notably Alan Hansen and Tommy Smith, who have criticised management and team.

"Former players always seem to have a pop at us in these situations and I always think that is disappointing. They have tried this job for themselves — or not tried at all — and now they think they know all the answers. That always seems to be an unfortunate thing from ex-players."

Sport in brief

Falcons prop charged in nose-biting case

THE Newcastle Falcons rugby union prop Paul van Zandvliet appeared in the North Tyneside Magistrates Court yesterday after a fight at a house party in which a man allegedly had his nose bitten off. Van Zandvliet, 33, born in Newcastle, faces charges of wounding with intent to cause grievous bodily harm, assault causing actual bodily harm and one public order offence. He was granted unconditional bail when the hearing was adjourned until November 23.

The Falcons said in a statement: "We have been made aware that one of our contracted players has been arrested over the weekend and is appearing in court today. It would be inappropriate for us to comment further at this stage."

Harris doubtful for Test

GREAT BRITAIN's hopes of avoiding a first home rugby league whitewash by New Zealand in Watford on Saturday have suffered a further blow with an injury to Iestyn Harris, *writes Andy Wilson*. The Leeds captain, who made a big impact at stand-off in the first half of last Saturday's second Test in Bolton before fading with his team-mates to a 36–16 defeat, is rated "very doubtful" by the Great Britain manager Phil Lowe because of a groin strain.

Britain are also likely to be without Adrian Morley and Paul Newlove, who missed the Bolton defeat with ankle and calf injuries respectively, but Gary Connolly is expected to play despite aggravating a long-standing shoulder problem.

New Zealand are also likely to make changes as Gene Ngamu, Nigel Vagana, Ali Lautiiti, Lesley Vainikolo and Craig Smith have not yet played on this three-match tour.

Cyclist suspend thyself

THE Festina drug scandal yesterday threw up another first when Pascal Hervé, one of the nine cyclists in the team thrown off the Tour de France over drug allegations, announced that he would impose a voluntary suspension on himself to "show solidarity" with team-mates likely to be suspended, *writes William Fotheringham*.

The 34-year-old Hervé, like only two others among the nine, did not admit to having used the banned blood-booster erythropoietin when questioned by police after the team were expelled from the Tour. He has not tested positive nor confessed to using banned drugs.

"I will stop racing and will start again only at the end of their suspension period," added Hervé. "My line is I'm with Richard Virenque. We never voluntarily took doping products."

New race for Maxi yachts

PIERRE FEHLMANN, a past winner of the Whitbread Round the World Race, is providing a World Championship for the International Maxi class, 80-foot identical boats based in northern Europe, to be followed by a southern European circuit, *writes Bob Fisher*. The eight boats, which are all owned by his fellow Swiss Ernesto Bertarelli, will be available for charter. Fehlmann is the first to provide level racing in this size of yacht.

Racing will begin with the North Sea Race from Harwich to Holland in mid-May and continue with the North Sea Regatta and Kiel Week, each providing five inshore races. A race from Kiel to Stockholm is followed by the Round Gotland Race before the fleet returns to England in late July.

From Cowes the Maxi one-designs will race the 200-mile Channel Race and complete four of the Cowes Week races, with the 600-mile Fastnet Race providing the grand finale for the World Championship. The second circuit is of four regattas, each of seven races, in Lisbon, Porto Cervo, Cannes and Monaco between August and October.

Seat give Evans a chance

GWYNDAF EVANS will drive a Seat in next week's RAC Rally, thus providing three British drivers with cars with the potential to win the final round of the World Rally Championship, *writes David Williams*. The Seat may be too new to stand a realistic chance of beating the McRae brothers' Subarus but Evans has won three rounds of this year's British Championship in one of the Spanish cars.

Laurent Aiello, meanwhile, will drive alongside David Leslie for Nissan in the 1999 British Touring Car Championship. The 29-year-old Frenchman replaces Anthony Reid, who helped Nissan win the manufacturers' championship in this year's British series before moving on to Ford with Alain Menu.

Miles takes share of lead

TONY MILES took the joint lead in the World Chess Championships zonal tournament in Andorra yesterday when he won his third game in a row, defeating Dimitri Reinderman of the Netherlands in 61 moves, *writes Leonard Barden*. Two other Britons, Mark Hebden and Jon Speelman, share fifth place in the contest, which qualifies for a £1.6 million title knockout in Las Vegas.

Italian set for Woodhall again

RICHIE WOODHALL will defend his World Boxing Council super-middleweight title against Vincenzo Nardiello by the end of January. The Italian should have faced the Telford fighter in Italy in July but pulled out with a calf injury.

Ian McLeod from Kilmarnock will defend his IBO Inter-Continental super-featherweight title against Huddersfield's Lee Armstrong in Prestwick on December 11.

Irwin pockets a record

HALE IRWIN completed the best financial season in golf with a five-stroke victory at the Senior Tour Championship in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. His prize-money of $347,000 (£210,000) gave him a total of $2,861,945 (£1,715,000).

The Ulsterman Darren Clarke won the European Tour Golfer of the Month award for October for his victory in the Volvo Masters.

Sri Lanka skittled

INDIA dismissed Sri Lanka for only 98 to win their third Champions Trophy match by 81 runs in Sharjah yesterday. India made a modest 179 but their new-ball pair, Javagal Srinath and Ajit Agarkar, ripped through the early Sri Lanka batting and the left-arm spinner Sunil Joshi finished the job.

Overseas football

English disease afflicts Europe

Chris Taylor

FIORENTINA's exclusion from the Uefa Cup after a match official was injured by a firecracker thrown during their second-round match with Grasshopper Zurich in Salerno brought hooliganism back to centre stage.

The Florence club are appealing against the decision, arguing that the object was thrown by rival Salernitana fans and the ban would set a dangerous precedent. But Uefa will have borne in mind that Fiorentina were playing so far away from home only because they had been banned from their own ground for crowd trouble in Europe last season.

Whether Fiorentina have been hard done by or not, fan violence is a problem in the Italian game. Fighting before Sunday's 1–1 draw between Bologna and Roma left eight people in hospital, two with stab wounds. After the game a Roma supporters' bus was stoned and set on fire.

But Italy is not the only country suffering from what used to be called "the English disease". At the weekend police in Bucharest fired teargas and made 20 arrests after a pitch invasion at the Steaua-Dinamo derby, reflecting a marked growth in hooliganism in Romania.

The Greek first division match between PAOK Thessaloniki and Olympiakos Piraeus last week was abandoned after one of the linesmen was left concussed by home fans furious at a disallowed goal, a decision which brought 10,000 people on to the streets of Salonika in protest.

In neighbouring Albania, Skënderbeu Korcë were fined and docked three points last month after a brawl involving players, fans and the referee.

Hooliganism is taking its toll on the South American game too. An Argentinian judge suspended all second division matches this month in an effort to combat rising violence.

The same judge halted the first division for two weeks in May for the same reason. Football violence has claimed 37 lives in Argentina in the Nineties and leading clubs routinely have to dole out free tickets and cash to their gangsterish fans, known as *barras bravas*, whose activities include extortion. A recent survey in Brazil found that 61 per cent of fans said they stayed away from matches because of fear of violence.

● Fifa is considering the postponement of the Confederations Cup, scheduled for January, which may persuade the world champions France to take part, a Fifa spokesman said yesterday.

Casiraghi injury may put young Finn in firing line

CHELSEA's £5.4 million Italian centre-forward Pierluigi Casiraghi will today undergo exploratory surgery on his right knee, injured in an accidental collision with West Ham's Rio Ferdinand at Upton Park on Sunday.

The loss of their record signing, who may be out for six months after damaging ligaments, follows the departure of Brian Laudrup to Denmark and will cause striking problems for Chelsea's manager Gianluca Vialli, although the arrival of the exciting Finnish Under-21 forward Mikkel Forsell this month may help.

Forsell, 17, who has had trials at Stamford Bridge in the past, has been signed from HJK Helsinki on a free transfer under the Bosman ruling. A spokeswoman for HJK said: "He signed a pre-contract with Chelsea this summer agreeing that he would move to London in November."

Chelsea yesterday recruited the Danish international midfielder Bjarne Goldbaek, 30, for £330,000 from FC Copenhagen, the club Laudrup has joined after knocking them out of the Cup Winners' Cup.

Goldbaek, who scored against Chelsea in the first leg of that European tie, has signed a 3½-year deal and is likely to make his debut in tomorrow night's Worthington Cup fourth-round tie against Arsenal at Highbury.

George Graham yesterday made his first signing since becoming Tottenham's manager when the Argentinian wing-back Mauricio Taricco completed a £1.78 million move from Ipswich.

Joe Royle's hopes of making Michael Branch's move to Manchester City permanent were dashed yesterday when his £1.1 million offer for the striker, currently on loan at Maine Road, was rejected by Everton, who want £1.5 million.

Juventus's Champions League prospects have been dealt a major blow with the news that their inspirational striker Alessandro Del Piero will be out of action for five months after injuring his left knee during the 2–2 draw with Udinese on Sunday. The Italian champions have not won a game in Europe this season.

Sky inquiry the key to future television deals

Martin Thorpe

MORE media groups are expected to follow BSkyB's example and move in on Premiership clubs if a crucial legal decision goes their way in the new year.

Arsenal, Aston Villa, Tottenham, the two Sheffield clubs, Southampton and even Ipswich, if they are promoted, are some of the names believed to be on a collective shopping list after BSkyB's £624 million bid for Manchester United.

Yesterday the United News And Media group confirmed that it is in talks with several clubs; Carlton Television has already held discussions with Arsenal, and the investment company Enic with Tottenham. And Aston Villa have held talks with an unnamed group.

A spokesman for UNM said yesterday that no deal was "imminent", but like other media groups it is awaiting the outcome of the Office of Fair Trading's investigation into the legality of the Premier League's current £743 million television deal with BSkyB.

That investigation, which begins in early January, will rule whether the present system of collective bargaining involving all 20 Premiership clubs represents an anti-competitive cartel.

If the OFT says that is so, it will give a green light to clubs to sell television rights for their own games to the highest bidders. And media groups are waiting in the wings to pounce.

A UNM spokesman confirmed that the group is "in principle interested in securing broadcast rights to football and has been in discussions with a number of clubs".

UNM owns Meridian Television on the south coast and Anglia Television. It also owns the Daily Express and several large regional papers including the Sheffield Star. The trend has been for media groups to approach clubs in areas of the country where they already have business interests, hence the possibility that UNM could link with either Sheffield club, Southampton or possibly Ipswich. UNM has also reportedly been in talks with Arsenal.

Media groups could set up their own cable channels to show their matches by subscription or find space on an existing terrestrial channel, such as Meridian or Anglia, where revenue would be derived from advertising.

The key is the OFT investigation. The Premier League believes it has a strong case to keep the system of collective bargaining, which benefits clubs both small and big. However, Manchester United have already set up their own television channel in readiness for the day when the league may be forced to admit defeat.

If the OFT rules against collective bargaining — pending the usual appeals and referrals — it will probably let the current deal run its course until 2001 and then allow future rights to be negotiated individually.

Pools Forecast

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP

1	Arsenal	v Tottenham	1
2	Charlton	v Middlesbro	1
3	Chelsea	v Wimbledon	1
4	Liverpool	v Leeds	x
5	Man Utd	v Blackburn	1
6	Newcastle	v Sheff Wed	1
7	Southampton	v Aston Villa	2
8	West Ham	v Leicester	x

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE FIRST DIVISION

9	Barnsley	v Ipswich	2
10	Birmingham	v Oxford	1
11	Bolton	v Tranmere	1
12	Bradford C	v Swindon	1
13	Crewe	v QPR	x
14	C Palace	v Bristol C	1
15	Grimsby	v Portsmouth	1
16	Norwich	v Wolves	1
17	Port Vale	v Sunderland	2
18	Sheff Utd	v Bury	1
19	Stockport	v Watford	x
20	West Brom	v Huddersfield	x

FA CUP FIRST ROUND

21	Cardiff	v Chester	1
22	Darlington	v Burnley	x
23	Dulwich	v Southport	2
24	Enfield	v York	1
25	Hartlepool	v Cardiff	1
26	Hednesford	v Barnet	1
27	L Orient	v Brighton	1
28	Macclesfield	v Crawley/Slough	1
29	Oldham	v Gillingham	2
30	Plymouth	v Kidderminster	1
31	Rossm	v Stevenage	x
32	Scarborough	v Rochdale	x
33	Southend	v Doncaster	1
34	Swansea	v Millwall	w
35	Tamworth	v Exeter	x
36	Telford	v Cambridge	2
37	Wigan	v Blackpool	1
38	Wrexham	v Peterborough	1
39	Wycombe	v Chesterfield	1

SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE

40	Dundee	v Kilmarnock	x
41	Motherwell	v Hearts	2
42	Rangers	v Aberdeen	1
43	St Johnstone	v Celtic	1

SCOTTISH FIRST DIVISION

44	Ayr Utd	v Clydebank	1
45	Falkirk	v Raith Rovers	1
46	Morton	v Airdrie	x
47	Hamilton	v Stranraer	1
48	Kilmarnock	v St Mirren	1

SCOTTISH SECOND DIVISION

49	Arbroath	v Livingston	2

v=void

Results

Football

FA VASE: Second-round draws Ossett T v Seaham RS; Garforth T v Prescot Cables; Bedlington Ter v Ramsbottom U, N Ferriby U v Workington; Billingham Syn v Tow Law T; Clitheroe v W Auckland T; Eccleshill U v Hallam; Dunston Fed Brewery v Maine Road or Brodsworth; Vauxhall GM v Essington Colliery; Mossley v Consett; St Helens T v Morpeth T; Brandon U v Liversedge; Billingham T v Chester-le-Street T; Warrington T v Louth U; Heanor T v Rushall Olympic; Mickleover Sps v Stamford; Spalding U v Rocester; Birstall U v Oadby T; Highfield Rngrs v Holwell Sptg; Staveley MW v Nantwich T; Arnold T v Wrexham; Chasetown v Hixon; St Andrews v Buxton; Goole AFC v Meir KA; Ilkeston Well v Bedford T; Kidsgrove Ath v Solehull Swifts; Kington T v Oldbury U; Fakenham T v Epsom & Ewell or Stansted; Lowestoft T v Tooting & Mitcham U; Saffron Walden T v Sudbury T; Tunbridge Wells v Ash U; Abingdon T v Letchworth; Banstead Ath v Hassocks; Thatcham T v Ramsgate; Barkingside v Tiptree U; Harlow T v Gt Wakering Rvrs; Woodbridge T v Redhill; Mildenhall T v Herne Bay; Thamesmead T v Bracne Sparts; Newmarket T or Barking v Aveley; Northwood v Buckingham Ath; Clacton T v Bucklingham; Burgess Hill T v Camberley T; Chipstead v Windsor & Eton; Thatford T v Sudbury Wndrs; Horsham YMCA v Deal T; Royston T v N Leigh; Potters Bar T v Ford U or Bedfont; Cobham v Stowmarket T; Sawbridgeworth T v Basildon U; Diss T v Yaxley; Wokingham T v Sidley U; Chesham v Wick; E Thurrock U v St Neots T; Bicester T v Thame U; Bemerton Hth Harlequins v Swindon Supermarine; Newquay v Hungerford T; Taunton T v Bridport; Ilfracombe T v Tiverton T; Minehead T v Melksham T; Dawlish T v Fairford T; Lymington & New Milton v Wellington T; Bristlington v Porthleven; Barnstaple T v St Blazey. Ties to be played Sat, Nov 28 (3.0).

Golf

SARAZEN OPEN (Georgia): **Leading final scores** (US unless stated): **272** D Hart 72, 69, 62, 69. **278** B Tway 66, 70, 66, 74. **277** B Langer (Ger) 68, 72, 69, 68. **278** J Huston 70, 71, 72, 66. **279** M Angel Jimenez (Sp) 72, 68, 67, 71; A Coltart (GB) 69, 68, 73, 69. **280** R Gonzalez (Arg) 69, 69, 70, 73. **281** P O'Malley (Aus) 73, 67, 72, 69. Also: **290** E Fryatt (GB) 67, 67, 83, 73. **291** P McGinley (GB) 73, 68, 73, 77. **298** B Dredge (GB) 74, 74, 73, 77.

SENIOR TOUR C'SHIP (Myrtle Beach) **Leading final scores** (US unless stated) **274** H Irwin 66, 73, 70, 65. **279** G Morgan 70, 70, 68, 71. **280** J Sigel 73, 71, 66, 70. **282** D Graham (Aus) 75, 73, 67, 67; V Fernandez (Arg) 74, 73, 66, 69. **283** J Inman 71, 73, 72, 67; J Albus 71, 68, 70, 74. **284** H Balocchi (SA) 71, 73, 71, 69; J Dent 72, 71, 70, 71; D Stockton 71, 72, 71, 70. **285** L Trevino 73, 72, 71, 69; J Colbert 75, 71, 70, 69; J M Canizares (Sp) 72, 72, 71, 70; R Floyd 69, 68, 72, 76.

US LPGA JAPAN CLASSIC (Hamno): **Leading final scores** (US unless stated): **206** H Kobayashi (Japan) 68, 68, 69 (won play-off); T Barrett 65, 74, 68. **207** L Kane (Can) 70, 64, 73. **209** B King 72, 67, 70; H Alfredsson (Swe) 71, 67, 71; H Yu-chen (Tai) 67, 68, 74. **Gib 216** H Dobson 72, 73, 71. **217** L HGackney 71, 76, 70. **218** C Matthew 70, 74, 74. **219** L Davies 72, 76, 71.

Tennis

ATP STOCKHOLM OPEN: First round: K Carlsen (Den) bt F Jonsson (Swe) 6–4, 7–6; M Gustafsson (Swe) bt R Schuttler (Ger) 3–6, 6–4, 6–4; G Grant (US) bt M Kohlman (Ger) 6–3, 6–3; T Sanzdl (Japan) bt T Enqvist (Swe) 6–4, 2–6, 6–4; W Ferreira (SA) bt J Knippschild (Ger) 6–4, 6–2.

ATP KREMLIN CUP (Moscow): **First round:** B Black (Zim) bt M Damm (Cz) 6–2, 6–3; S Schalken (Neth) bt A Olhovskiy (Rus) 7–5, 6–4; A Pavel (Rom) bt T Woodbridge (Aus) 7–6, 6–2; G Raoux (Fr) bt A Medvedev (Ukr) 7–6, 6–4; J Gehrard (Fr) bt D Prinosil (Ger) 7–5, 6–3.

American Football

NFL: Baltimore 13 Oakland 10; Chicago 12 St Louis 20; Dallas 16 NY Giants 6; Jacksonville 24 Cincinnati 11; Miami 27 Indianapolis 14; Minnesota 31 New Orleans 24; New England 10 Atlanta 41; Philadelphia 10 Detroit 9; Arizona 28 Washington 27, San Francisco 25 Carolina 23. Denver 27 San Diego 10; NY Jets 34 Buffalo 12; Seattle 24 Kansas City 12; Tampa Bay 22 Tennessee 31. **Leading standings: American Conference Eastern:** 1. NY Jets (W6, L3, PF220, PA151); 2. Miami (5-3-165-123); 3. Buffalo (5-4-200-186). **Central:** 1. Jacksonville (W7, L2, PF283, PA176); 2. Pittsburgh (5-3-137-141); 3. Tennessee (5-4-216-179). **Western:** 1. Denver (W8, L0, PF300, PA169); 2. Oakland (6-3-166-158); 3. Seattle (5-4-186-142). **National Conference Eastern:** 1. Dallas (W6, L3, PF284, PA121); 2. Arizona (5-4-154-197); 3. NY Giants (3-6-166-189). **Central:** 1. Minnesota (W8, L1, PF296, PA167); 2. Green Bay (6-2-216-188); 3. Tampa Bay (4-5-143-176). **Western:** 1. Atlanta (W7, L2, PF253, PA178); 2. San Francisco (7-2-273-186); 3. New Orleans (4-5-182-201).

Chess

WORLD CHAMPION ZONAL (Andorra): **Round Three:** A Miles (Eng) 1 D Reinderman (Neth) 0; M Hebden (Eng) 1 L Galego (Sp) 0; G Miralles (Fr) 0 J Speelman (Eng) 1. **Bronze:** P Claesen (Bel) v J Emms (Eng), M Quinn (Ire) v P Wells (Eng). S Brady (Ire) v A Kosten (Eng). **Leaders:** L Comas (Sp), Miles 3; J Piket (Neth), L van Wely (Neth) 2½. **Also:** Hebden, Speelman 2; Emms 1½, Wells 1; Kosten ½.

MONARCH ASSURANCE OPEN (Port Erin, IoM): **Round Three:** J Plaskett 0 E Sutovsky (Isr) 1; A Jansa (Cz) ½ C Ward ½; A Ledger 0 N Short 1; S Tivlakov (Rus) 1 C Daly (Ire) 0; A Chernisev (Rus) 0 N Miezis (Lat) 1; A Fridman (Isr) 1 K Arkell 0. **Leaders:** Sadovsky 3; Ward, Short, Tivlakov, Miezis, Fridman 2½.

Cricket

CHAMPIONS' TROPHY (Sharjah): India 179 (49.5 overs; A Jadeja 84; Dharmasena 3–31, Wickremasinghe 2–27). Sri Lanka 98 (39 overs; Joshi 3–17, Agarkar 3–35, Srinath 2–20). India won by 81 runs.

Ice Hockey

SUPERLEAGUE: Ayr 4 London 1; Bracknell 3 Cardiff 6; Manchester 10 Newcastle 1; Sheffield 3 Nottingham 2.

BRITISH NATIONAL LEAGUE: Edinburgh 6 Paisley 4; Fife 5 Telford 3; Guildford 10 Basingstoke 1.

NHL: Tampa Bay 3 New Jersey 1; Carolina 2 Boston 5; Calgary 3 Colorado 1; Anaheim 2 Detroit 3; Chicago 2 Edmonton 3 (ot). **Leading standings: Eastern Conference: Northeast:** 1. Boston (W8, L5, T3, GF36, GA25, Pts15); 2. Toronto (6-5-2-40-41-14); 3. Buffalo (5-3-3-30-23-13). **Atlantic:** 1. New Jersey (W7, L5, T0, GF25, GA25, Pts14); 2. Pittsburgh (5-3-4-32-32-14); 3. Philadelphia (5-4-4-33-28-14). **Southeast:** 1. Carolina (W6, L5, T3, GF34, GA29, Pts15); 2, Tampa Bay (6-6-2-36-39-14); 3, Florida (4-5-3-27-36-11). **Western Conference: Central:** 1. Detroit (W7, L6, T0, GF37, GA30, Pts14); 2. St Louis (5-4-4-30-26-14); 3. Chicago (4-7-2-29-39-10). **Northwest:** 1. Edmonton (W8, L5, T0, GF46, GA34, Pts16); 2. Vancouver (6-5-1-37-30-13); 3. Calgary (5-6-2-34-38-12). **Pacific:** 1. Dallas (W7, L2, T2, GF28, GA23, Pts16); 2. Phoenix (6-2-1-27-15-13); 3. Los Angeles (4-6-3-26-30-11).

Snooker

B&H CHAMPIONSHIP (Malvern): **Fourth round** (Eng unless stated): J Cassidy bt A Hicks 5–1; G Morse (Scot) bt A Higginson 5–2; M Holt bt J Burnett (Scot) 5–3; M Walker bt M Roughan 5–2; D Morgan (Wales) bt G Ponting 5–3; S Hall (Fin) bt D Reynolds 5–4; T Murphy (Ni) bt R Mildins 5–4; D Harold bt K Burrows 5–2.

Fixtures

(7.30 unless stated)

Football

WORTHINGTON CUP: Fourth rounds Bolton v Wimbledon (8.0); Liverpool v Tottenham (7.45); Luton v Barnsley (7.45).

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE (7.45 unless stated): **First Division:** Portsmouth v Norwich; Tranmere v Bradford C; Wolves v Sheff Utd. **Second:** Bristol Rvrs v Blackpool; Burnley v Stoke; Chesterfield v Bournemouth; Colchester v Northampton; Gillingham v Oldham; Preston v Millwall; Walsall v Lincoln C; Wrexham v Fulham (7.30); Wycombe v Man C; York v Macclesfield. **Third:** Barnet v Scunthorpe; Brentford v Southend; Cardiff v Scarborough (7.30); Darlington v Carlisle (7.30); Halifax v Chester; Hartlepool v Mansfield (7.30); Hull v Brighton (7.30); Peterboro v Cambridge Utd; Plymouth v Swansea; Rochdale v Exeter; Rotherham v Torquay; Shrewsbury v L Orient.

UNIBOND LEAGUE: First Division: Burscough v Ashton Utd; Fiibton v Radcliffe Bor; Gt Harwood Tn v Witton Alb; Hucknall Tn v Alfreton Tn.

FA VASE: First-round replays: Brodsworth v Maine Road; Bedfont v Ford Utd; Stansted v Epsom & Ewell.

ISTHMIAN LEAGUE CUP: Second round: Croydon Ath v Maidenhead Utd; Carshalton Ath v Uxbridge.

HYMAN LEAGUE: Second Div: Edgware Tn v Leighton Tn; Horsham v Witham Tn; Marlow v Hungerford Tn; Abingdon Tn v Windsor & Eton, Thame Corinthian Cas v Camberley Tn; Barking v E Thurrock Utd. **Pusas Cup: First round:** Chesham Utd v Barton Rvrs; Harrow Bor v Leyton Pen; Romford v Staines Tn; Wembley v B Stortford. **Vauxhall Trophy: First round:** Chalfont St Peter v Kingsbury Tn.

DR MARTENS LEAGUE CUPS: First round, first leg: Andover v Newport (IoW); Ashford Tn v Hastings Tn; Bashley v Salisbury C; Blakenall v Solihull Bor; Bloxwich Tn v Stourbridge; Cambridge C v Brackley Tn, Clevedon Tn v Witney Tn; Dorchester Tn v Fleet Tn; Evesham Tn v Redditch Utd; Gloucester C v Clrencester Tn; Grantham Tn v Ilkeston Tn; Halesowen Tn v Bromsgrove Rvrs; Hinckley Utd v Sutton Coldfield Tn; Margate v Folkestone Invicta; Merthyr Tydfil v Bath C; Moor Green v Barton Alb; Rsunds Tn v Baldock Tn; Rothwell Tn v Chelmsford C; Shepshed Dynamo v Paget Rngrs; Weston-Super-Mare v Yate Tn.

N-W TRAINS LEAGUE: First Division: Bootle v St Helens Tn; Maine Road v Atherton LR; Prescot Cables v Skelmersdale Utd. **League Cup: First rounds:** Rossendale Utd v Salford C. **Floodlit Trophy: First round, second leg:** Glossop NE v Kidsgrove Ath.

PONTINS LEAGUE: Premier Division: Postponed: Derby v Man Utd (now Tues, Jan 19). **First Division: Postponed:** Grimsby v Man C (now Tues, Nov 17).

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First Division: OPR v Ipswich (2.0).

LEAGUE CUP: Quarter-finales: Bangor C v Newtown; Barry Tn v Haverfordwest.

GOLD CUP: Section A: Bangor v Carrick, Coleraine v Ballymena; Distillery v Clftonville. **Section B:** Dungannon Swifts v Linfield; Glenavon v Crusaders; Newry v Limavady Utd. **Section C:** Ards v Larne; Bellyclare v Portadown; Omagh Tn v Glentoran.

Rugby Union

TOUR MATCH: Glasgow Caledonians v South Africa (7.0, Firhill).

هكذا من الأصل

Cricket

Tour match: South Australia v England XI

Stewart pair piles on the agony

Mike Selvey in Adelaide

NEXT week the Festival Centre on the other side of the River Torrens from the Oval here sees the first of a series of three complete performances of Wagner's Ring Cycle.

The production, the first of its kind in Australia, involves about 300 people — more even than Pakistan have chosen in their series against Australia this winter — and lasts well over 16 hours. At a rough calculation this is not far short of the total time spent at the crease by England's batsmen on their tour so far.

For lack of reliability not even this ground's four new state-of-the-art retractable floodlights — two of them locked erect at one end, a third aping the Grand Old Duke of York and neither up nor down, and the fourth missing because it fell down — can match England's batting.

Slipshod in the first innings, they found themselves deep in trouble again yesterday as South Australia's attack, led once more by the pace of Jason Gillespie and the left-armer Mark Harrity, sought to embarrass them with little more than a week to go before the first Test.

Facing a deficit of 138 after the Redbacks had been dismissed on the stroke of lunch for 325, Mark Butcher, Nasser Hussain and Alec Stewart were sent packing at no great cost. Stewart went for his second duck of the game, his first pair for England.

The situation worsened when Mike Atherton, playing in untroubled fashion for his 53, was run out while backing up when the bowler, Harrity, got a fingertip to Graham Thorpe's firm straight drive and deflected the ball on to the stumps.

By the close Thorpe, on 30, and Mark Ramprakash, on 33, had begun the process of pulling the game round, seeing out the last 25 overs of the third day with an unbroken fifth-wicket stand of 69. But with England on 149 for four, a lead of only 11, the home side retained the upper hand into the final day.

Stewart's double failure — this time he was leg-before offering no stroke to Greg Blewett's medium pace — was unfortunate but he will have another opportunity against Queensland in Cairns over the weekend, when the rest of the probable Test batting line-up look certain to play.

Afterwards the tour manager Graham Gooch said of Stewart: "As a player and a captain you want to be in good form and for Alec to miss the first game through injury and then to score no runs at all is not what he was looking for."

Butcher has a few days to ponder his fate. Already the signs are that this is not going to be a lucky tour for him. Having made only a modest start in the warm-up at Lilac Hill, he ducked into his second ball in Perth, required 10 stitches over his left eye and took no further part in the game. A collision in practice here last Thursday left him with a nick over the other eye as well, and that injury has been followed by two more batting failures.

The selectors must now decide whether he will play in Brisbane despite his start — in which case he must play in Cairns as well — or if someone else must join Atherton at the top of the order. Stewart is the only other specialist opener but his wicketkeeping duties will rule him out.

This leaves either John Crawley, who deputised for Butcher in Perth, or Ramprakash. Neither is a satisfactory option at this stage of the tour. England do not need problems like this right now.

Should Butcher keep his place then this game has already given Glenn McGrath something to savour. In the first innings the batsman misjudged the line of a ball from Harrity and played a stroke when he should have left it, and yesterday he was undone by Gillespie, who went round the wicket to deny him room on a surface showing low bounce; Hussain was later to experience it as well as he fell to the most insidious of grubbers. Butcher's attempted cut to a ball coming in at him was naive and cost him his wicket as he chopped the ball on to his stumps, and the Surrey man will need no reminding that McGrath is the best exponent in the world of this angle of attack to left-handers.

In the morning England's bowlers had persevered impressively once again as South Australia added 73 runs, Angus Fraser and Dominic Cork collecting two more wickets apiece. Cork's figures of 29–11–45–4 gave notice that he at least is reaching a peak at the right time.

ENGLAND: First innings 187 (N Hussain 57, D G Cork 51).

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

First Innings (overnight: 262–5)

J M Vaughan c Thorpe b Fraser	58
†T J Nielsen c Thorpe b Fraser	17
E M C Arnold lbw b Cork	8
J N Gillespie not out	18
A R Cook lbw b Cork	1
M A Harrity c Hussain b Such	6
Extras (b2, lb14, nb4)	20
Total (126.5 overs)	325

Fall of wickets: 268, 295, 298, 302.

Bowling: Cork 29–11–45–4; Tudor 19–2–70–0; Headley 21–1–67–1; Fraser 27–7–57–3; Such 26.5–6–59–1; Ramprakash 4–1–11–1.

ENGLAND

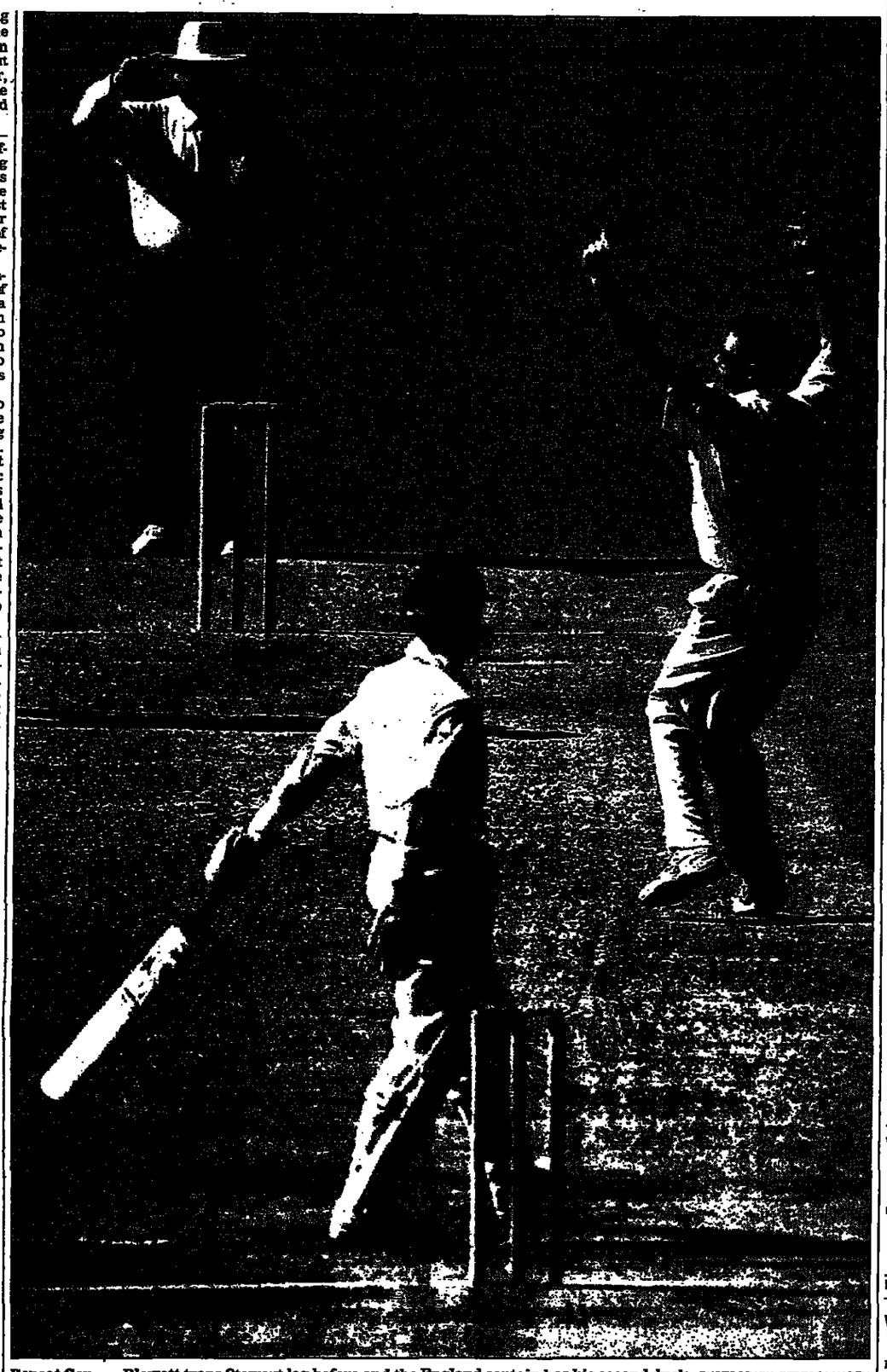
Second Innings

M A Butcher b Gillespie	8
M A Atherton run out	53
N Hussain lbw b Harrity	17
*†A J Stewart lbw b Blewett	0
G P Thorpe not out	30
M R Ramprakash not out	33
Extras (lb8, nb3)	11
Total (for 4, 84 overs)	149

Fall of wickets: 26, 72, 75, 80.

Bowling: Gillespie 15–8–25–1; Harrity 15–4–49–1; Arnold 15–5–25–0; Johnson 8–1–21–0; Blewett 6–3–6–1; Cook 5–2–12–0.

Umpires: P G Parker and S J Davis.



Repeat flop . . . Blewett traps Stewart leg-before and the England captain has his second duck PHOTOGRAPH: REBECCA NADEN

Rugby Union

Johnson leads after Dallaglio injury blow

Robert Armstrong

ENGLAND's autumn programme of internationals has got off to the worst possible start with the loss of their captain Lawrence Dallaglio, who has withdrawn with a knee injury. Martin Johnson takes over as captain for Saturday's World Cup qualifier against Holland in Huddersfield, the first time the Leicester forward, who made his Test debut in 1993, has led the national team.

Dallaglio, who limped off with a twisted knee near the end of Wasps' Premiership defeat at Northampton last Saturday, is also thought to be doubtful for the World Cup qualifier against Italy on November 22. If the flanker, who missed England's summer tour to the southern hemisphere because of a damaged shoulder, is ruled out of the Italy game then the plans of the coach Clive Woodward will be thrown into disarray in the build-up to the tougher fixtures against Australia and South Africa.

Johnson is the third captain England have installed this year. Matt Dawson, his most serious rival for the job, led an understrength squad through four predictable Test defeats in the southern hemisphere before Dallaglio was reinstated last month. The Leicester man, though, brings immense authority to his new role, having led the Lions to a notable Test-series triumph in South Africa last year.

Woodward will not announce his match squad until Thursday because of continuing injury doubts over other key players. Phil Greening (ribs), Tony Underwood (groin), Jason Leonard (hand), Garath Archer (neck) and Will Green (cut eye) are all in various stages of disrepair, hence the England coach's decision to name an interim squad of 33 players yesterday.

Martin Corry, the in-form Leicester No. 8 who won two caps in Argentina last year, has been called up to bolster the back-row cover in the absence of Dallaglio. Spencer Brown, the Richmond wing, will also remain in the enlarged squad until Underwood's fitness doubts are resolved. The possible loss of Greening is covered by the return of the Bath hooker Andy Long, who won his only cap to date against Australia a year ago.

"I won't be reducing the squad to 26 and naming the side to face the Netherlands until I have made further injury checks," said Woodward. "We will monitor Lawrence Dallaglio's progress over the next few days to see if he'll be fit for the Italy game. I've invited Martin Corry to join the squad to replace Lawrence; his form this season has been outstanding and he is in the squad on merit."

The prospects of Ben Clarke, who played in three Tests in the summer, remaining in the team, probably at blind-side flanker, have been enhanced and Tony Diprose is likely to hold off the fresh challenge of Corry at No. 8. Neil Back's dynamic club form will probably see the Leicester open-side edging out Richard Hill of Saracens.

Since Will Carling's retirement from the job two years ago England have run through five captains, including Phil de Glanville and Leonard, who had the job for one match two years ago against Argentina.

Last year Johnson, who is now the Leicester captain, was the England favourite ahead of Dallaglio after Woodward heaped public praise on the leadership skills of the 28-year-old lock. England's senior players tend to play down the importance of the captain's role but they are certain to give the thumbs-up to Johnson, the ultimate players' player.

● The prop Dan Crowley has been ruled out of Australia's tour to France and England this month. Crowley, who injured his ankle in training, is replaced by Cameron Blades, whose brother Andrew is also in the squad.

ENGLAND SQUAD: Backs: Perry (Bath), Beal (Northampton), Luger (Harlequins), Healey (Leicester), T Underwood (Newcastle) or Brown (Richmond), Rees, Bolm (both Sale), Gisscott (Bath), Greenwood (Leicester), de Glanville (Bath), Thomas (Saracens), Grayson (Northampton), Catt (Bath), Bracken (Saracens), Dawson (Northampton). **Forwards: Leonard** (Harlequins), Rowntree, Garforth (both Leicester), Green (Wasps), Cockerill (Leicester), Greening (Sale), Long (Bath), Johnson (Leicester, capt), Greenwood (Saracens), Archer (Newcastle), Redber (Northampton), Dallaglio (Wasps), Clarke (Richmond), Corry (Leicester), Diprose (Saracens), Back (Leicester), Hill (Saracens).

(Squad for Tests against Holland and Italy to be reduced to 26 on Thursday when team to play Holland will be named).

Wales defy ban to pick Quinnell

Paul Rees

WALES will defy the Rugby Football Union and field the Richmond No. 8 Scott Quinnell against South Africa at Wembley on Saturday even though he has been banned for 14 days, subject to appeal.

His appeal, requested by Richmond after the suspension was imposed for a late tackle by Quinnell on Lawrence Dallaglio in a club match against Wasps last month, is scheduled for Thursday night but the Wales coach Graham Henry said it would have to be put off because Quinnell's wife Nicola is expecting the couple's third child on Thursday night.

"There is no way the appeal can be heard without Scott and we will be telling the RFU that it will have to be put back," said Henry. "He will be playing against South Africa, there is no doubt about that."

Last night Richmond revealed that Quinnell was no longer their player, having agreed to return to Wales to join Llanelli.

Henry has announced his first Wales side three months after leaving New Zealand to take the £250,000-a-year job with the Welsh Rugby Union. Even though only three players survive from the team routed 96–13 by South Africa in Pretoria last June, the full-back Shane Howarth is the only new cap.

Howarth played four times for New Zealand in 1992, including three Tests against South Africa. He qualifies for Wales through his grandfather.

Henry has resisted the temptation to play the rugby league international Anthony Sullivan on the wing. Instead he will play for Wales A against Argentina next week.

The Swansea prop Chris Anthony, who has played only two matches this season after recovering from a knee operation, replaces the injured David Young in the front row and the former Wales captain Jonathan Humphreys starts his first international since he gave up the captaincy 18 months ago.

Mark Taylor replaces the injured Allan Bateman at centre and Scott Quinnell's brother Craig forms a new second-row partnership with Llanelli's Chris Wyatt.

● Niall Malone, the 27-year-old former Ireland fly-half, has joined the Premiership Two side Worcester from Leicester, for whom he made 73 appearances in five years.

WALES: Howarth (Sale); **Thomas** (Cardiff), **Taylor, Gibbs** (both Swansea), **James; Jenkins** (both Pontypridd), **Howley** (capt); **Lewis, Humphreys** (all Cardiff), **Anthony** (Swansea), **C Quinnell** (Richmond), **Wyatt** (Llanelli), **Charvis** (Swansea), **S Williams** (Pontypridd). **S Quinnell** (Llanelli). **Replacements: Rayer** (Cardiff), **Boobyer** (Llanelli), **Llewellyn** (Ebbw Vale), **Voyle** (Llanelli), **Evans, Morris** (both Swansea), **S Williams** (Richmond).

Holding, Lloyd and Gavaskar get behind Winston

Matthew Engel on the help at hand for the tetraplegic former West Indies quick bowler

WINSTON DAVIS is nearing the end of the beginning. Before Christmas he hopes to fulfil the dream that has helped keep him going throughout the past year: to go home.

Davis, you may recall, is the former West Indies fast bowler who was terribly injured in a freak accident last November. He was helping clear some ground to build a church on St Vincent, where he was born, when a branch fell on him and knocked him to the ground. He was left completely paralysed: a tetraplegic, with no movement in his arms or legs.

He had been a fine player: 15 Tests for West Indies in the Eighties, when they had fast bowlers galore. He had been popular with spectators when he played for Glamorgan and Northamptonshire, a chivalrous opponent, a well-liked team-mate.

His needs and those of his family were clearly immense, since he will need constant care for the rest of his life. But with the West Indies Board flat broke, and English cricket locked into a rigid (and I believe iniquitous) system of benefits, the game he served was unable to provide more than minimal help when crisis struck.

In August the Guardian drew attention to his story. As an afterthought, I stuck an address on the bottom to allow people to send money. I thought that might produce a few hundred quid.

Guardian readers (with a little help from readers of Wisden Cricket Monthly) have now raised £33,905.98: someone sent in some dollars, hence the 98p. A £100 cheque arrived from Hong Kong only yesterday. It has been a truly astonishing response, and it has already changed the Davis family's lives.

Last week Winston went home to his wife and six-year-old daughter in Bewdley, Worcestershire. He travelled in the special wheelchair-friendly vehicle paid for by Guardian readers. Until then he had been unable to leave the orthopaedic hospital in Shropshire because there was no simple way of transporting someone with such severe injuries. Now they can even go on family outings. He hopes he will also have enough money to buy a state-of-the-art Scandinavian wheelchair specially designed for tetraplegics.

His stay at home was a three-day experiment. The plan now is for him to go home again for another short stay before he goes back for good.

All year the Davises have been looking forward to this time. It's a wonderful moment, and a worrying one. Only now is the reality beginning to dawn, especially on Winston's wife Patricia, of what life will be like with someone who needs constant care.

His mind is unaffected: he remains thoughtful and articulate as well as deeply religious. But his body will accept no instructions from his brain. The future for the family is going to be tough and unremitting.

But it is a brighter future than it would have been. The Davises have been thrilled not merely by the money but by the warmth of the letters that accompanied it. "Some of the things that have been written to me, by people who don't even know me, have just been extraordinary. It's such a blessing to me," he said.

"I didn't do anything special, I just did my job. Yet people felt moved to write with such kindness. It just shows the spirit of charity and love that people can feel, and how they can rise to the occasion. We will be eternally grateful."

Many of the most moving letters came from those who could afford the least. The weight of post was so much that it has been impossible to thank everyone individually. Please be assured that the Davises have been deeply touched by every single letter.

There may be some good news yet to come. Plans are now advancing for a special benefit match to be played during a lull in the World Cup next summer, probably at Cardiff. Three players have already agreed to turn out and play, commitments permitting. Their names are Clive Lloyd, Sunil Gavaskar and Michael Holding. That's a fair start, I think. This could be some occasion. Sponsorship, anyone?



Out and about . . . Davis and his wife get aboard JEFF MORGAN

Ice Hockey

Road to Denmark begins in Principality

Vic Batchelder

GREAT BRITAIN's preparations for April's World Championship Pool B tournament will get under way on November 23 when 37 players attend a three-day training camp in Cardiff, where they will also play a warm-up game against the Devils.

All bar Rick Strachan of Basingstoke, Paul Thompson of Guildford and Ashley Tait of Kingston are from Superleague sides.

Peter Woods, manager of the newly formed Great Britain Ice Hockey Board, will oversee the initial preparations for the Denmark tournament pending the appointment of a part-time coach who will combine the job with his club role, as Woods himself did before this season. A full-time appointment will eventually be made, although not before next season at best.

Nottingham Panthers' 3–2 defeat at Sheffield on Sunday not only cost them second place in the Superleague but also the defenceman Steve Carpenter. He sustained a groin injury and is unlikely to play in either leg of this week's Benson & Hedges Cup semi-final against the league leaders Manchester Storm, whose 10–1 home victory over Newcastle Riverkings equalled the league record for the greatest winning margin.

Cardiff Devils' 6–3 win at Bracknell moved them into second place, four points behind Manchester with two games in hand. It was achieved without the Canadian defenceman Kory Mullin, who has been released after scoring five goals in 19 games. "It was mainly based on his circumstances back home; he just wasn't settling here," said the Devils' coach Paul Heavey, who hopes to announce a replacement next week.

American Football

Jinx hits Vikings quarterback second time round

THE Minnesota Vikings have the best record at 8–1 in the NFC but may be struggling from now on with their third-string quarterback Jay Fielder on standby after their injury jinx struck again against New Orleans Saints.

Randall Cunningham, making his seventh successive start in place of the injured regular Brad Johnson, twisted his right knee on the third play of Sunday's game.

Johnson, who broke his right leg in the Vikings' second game, took Cunningham's place and threw for 316 yards and a touchdown, only to break his right thumb early in the second half of their 31–24 win.

"I knew it was messed up right away; it was crooked," he said. "I hit my thumb on a helmet. It's fractured and I'm not sure about the status."

Johnson, who had been expected to return to the starting line-up next week, added: "I was ready to play, it felt great to be in there and I didn't feel rusty."

He made a crucial 19-yard, left-handed completion to the running back Leroy Hoard in the Vikings' game-winning drive. "I had practised left-handed passes all spring but it was a crucial, crucial situation," he explained. "I was being hit, switched the ball to my left hand and threw it to Leroy, who made a great catch."

Emmitt Smith became the all-time leading rusher in Dallas Cowboys history during their 16–6 win over the New York Giants. He needed 95 yards to overtake Tony Dorsett's 12,036 and picked up 106 in the first half, finishing with 163 from 29 carries.

Team talk

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Brentford	66	Leeds United	76	Sheffield Wed.	89
Burnley	67	Leicester City	77	Southampton	90
Bury	11	Liverpool	78	Spurs	91
Celtic	68	Man. City	79	Stoke City	92
Charlton	99	Man. United	80	Stockport	12
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The Guardian INTERACTIVE

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Outsiders are not entirely convinced that the party conference last month.) optimism that by chance a policy shirts on a high street near you.

Champion's whip hand, page 13

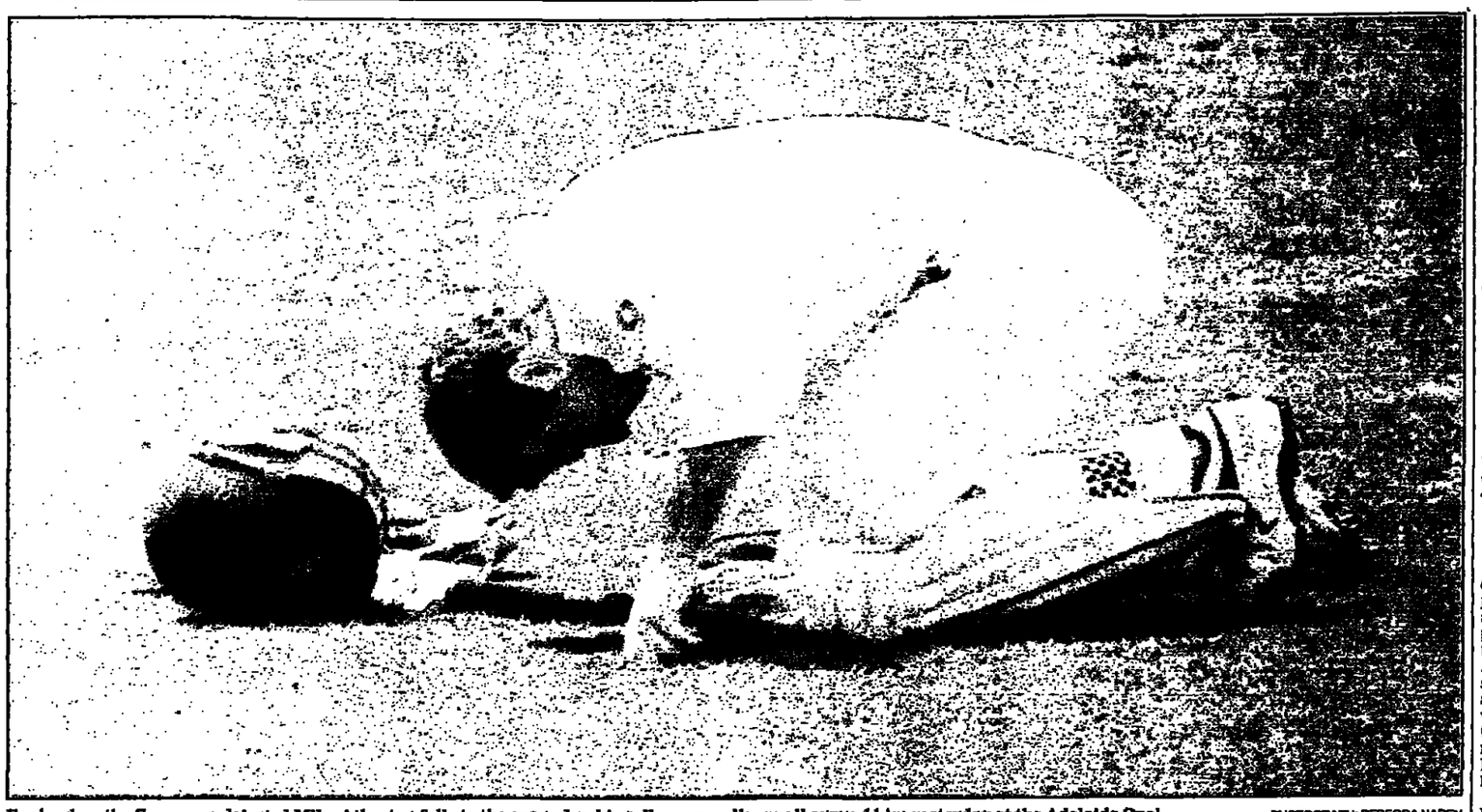
Dallaglio misses out, page 15

Evans feels Anfield pressure, page 14

England collapse again, page 15

SportsGuardian

Cricket in crisis



England on the floor . . . a dejected Mike Atherton falls to the ground as his colleagues collapse all around him yesterday at the Adelaide Oval PHOTOGRAPH: REBECCA NADEN

Lara reprieve as tour goes ahead

David Hopps on an airport climbdown by the West Indies board

WEST INDIES' ground-breaking Test series in South Africa was saved last night, after nearly a week of intense negotiations finally ended the bitter stand-off between rebel players and the Caribbean's cricket administrators.

Brian Lara's rebels, ensconced in a Heathrow airport hotel during an escalating financial dispute which threatened to force the cancellation of the tour, boarded a plane to South Africa last night.

A reprieve was widely anticipated for Lara and his vice-captain Carl Hooper, who were both unceremoniously sacked by an implacable West Indies Board, led by its autocratic president, the Jamaican lawyer Pat Rousseau.

The first suggestions that the board had made the concession the players had unanimously demanded came when Courtney Walsh, head of the Players' Association, pronounced: "The players are checking out and ready to go. Lara and Hooper are back in business."

The settlement, thrashed out after another exhausting round of talks at the Radisson Edwardian Hotel, salvaged West Indies' first Test series in the republic since South Africa's readmission to international cricket six years ago after multiracial elections.

Before the tour could be saved it was necessary for all participants to save face, and the agreement, tirelessly brokered by Ali Bacher, chief executive of the United Cricket Board of South Africa, somehow achieved just that.

Bacher, armed with a personal appeal from President Mandela and his personal conviction that the three-month West Indies tour would arouse a passion for the game among the black population, arbitrated so successfully that he might qualify for life membership of Acas.

As the dispute dragged on yesterday, an increasingly exasperated Bacher took an increasingly central role in negotiations. These involved Rousseau, regarded by the players as an old-fashioned hard-liner, the Jamaican captain Jimmy Adams, Barrie Gill, the agent handling Lara's affairs, and Collyer-Bristow, City solicitors.

Until yesterday virtually every positive development had emanated from South Africa. The insistence from Edward Griffiths, head of South Africa's state television network, that only a full-strength West Indies side would be acceptable to sponsors and advertisers scotched any thoughts the West Indies board might have held of refusing to negotiate and sending a second-string squad.

The former South African wicketkeeper Dave Richardson, head of a sports marketing company, also conjured up extra sponsorship, from a "West Indies company based in South Africa", which promised to leave more room for negotiation.

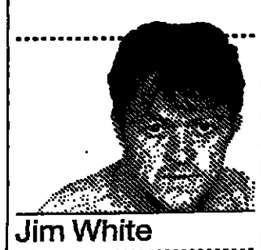
So the tour has been saved, but the antics of the past week do not reflect well on either West Indies' senior players, their newly constituted Players' Association, or the West Indies Cricket Board.

However widespread their support might have been among the players, the brinkmanship attempted by Lara and his deputy Hooper in leaving the official party in transit in Bangkok and beginning an impromptu strike in London displayed a remarkable selfishness in putting an historic tour in jeopardy because of their wish to squeeze out a better financial deal.

Player power can, in drastic circumstances, be justifiable but it has rarely seemed more blinkered.

Lara, and the rest of the West Indies players, have an opportunity to show they can adopt a wider perspective in the coming months. For West Indies, of all sides, to have wilfully tossed aside the opportunity to play an active part in South Africa's reconciliation process would have been unimaginable.

Rainbow path to gold at the striker's end



Jim White

IT HAS been like the Seventies all over again this past week, strikes and threats of strikes in every sporting direction. Such has been the proliferation of industrial action, at any moment you expect to see Gordon Taylor of the Professional Footballers' Association emerging from smoke-filled rooms at No. 10, awash with beer and sandwiches and talking about protecting the differentials of his members; which incidentally has nothing to do with Dion Dublin.

First there was Pierre van Hooijdonk spending a three-month sabbatical telling us that, my dear, it's barely possible for a gentleman to survive in Nottingham on £15,000 a week; then the entire Oxford United team threatening walkouts; and then Brian Lara and chums, so fed up with their bosses that they apparently wanted to winter in the Forte Crest hotel at Terminal Four rather than Cape Town.

Just as reminiscent of the Seventies has been the way management tried to place the blame firmly at the feet of the workers. Not the most sensible of strategies in Oxford's case, as anything placed at the feet of their players tends to bounce away immediately. The observation by the Oxford director Maurice Evans — "footballers are all mercenaries only interested in money" — looked less than plausible when it emerged that his club's financial hardship would have precluded the players being paid anything at all last week, until they threatened to strike. Their action, one would have thought, was motivated less by greed than need.

More entertaining, though, has been the manner in which the administrators of the West Indies Cricket Board have so singularly failed to occupy the moral high ground in the Lara case. Lara is renowned in cricket as an active disciple of the Geoffrey Boycott school: nothing — not team-mates, not country — matters as much as himself, or rather his bank balance. Mark Taylor he is not.

Yet as an affair which initially seemed little more than another piece of financial brinkmanship by the world's most gifted batsman has unravelled, the islands' administrators have looked increasingly out of touch, if not out to lunch.

Watching developments yesterday, it is clear the West Indies board has been completely marginalised. Lara and his chums may have been sacked by their employers but that merely gave them the chance to negotiate directly with those who matter: the South Africans. Or more particularly Nelson Mandela, who seems to enjoy his new role as the head of the sports division of Acas.

For those with long memories there is a sweet irony here. The old apartheid regime stuck their racist noses into the affairs of touring parties to keep black sportsmen out; these days the hosts offer everything from sponsorship deals to free first-class flights and intimate suppers with the President to ensure they come.

Ali Bacher, managing director of South Africa's United Cricket Board, admits he is desperate to see the West Indians fulfil their tour. Since certain intransigent parties in South African rugby seem determined to maintain old exclusivities, Bacher is anxious to seize his opportunity to sell cricket as the rainbow nation's sport.

Thus is Brian Lara vital: not only is he the world's most accomplished player but he is a hooking, driving, black role-model to boot. Equally South African television has made it clear it is prepared to underwrite the West Indian players' demands and so revitalise the tour only if Lara is reinstated. An echo of Ronaldo and the World Cup final: they will pay only if he plays.

AND there, on the other side of the table, are the West Indian administrators clinging to the fondly held belief that the game is bigger than the players. Well, it isn't. Whatever the outcome of this tour, the board is in trouble. Virtually bankrupt at home, where cricket lags well behind basketball and football as the sport of choice among the young, the board desperately needs overseas tours for the injection of cash they bring.

But those tours have value in the sponsor-driven world only if the big names are involved. And if they are, they soak up all the money. That's always been sports administrators' biggest problem: it would be a nice easy job if it weren't for the players.

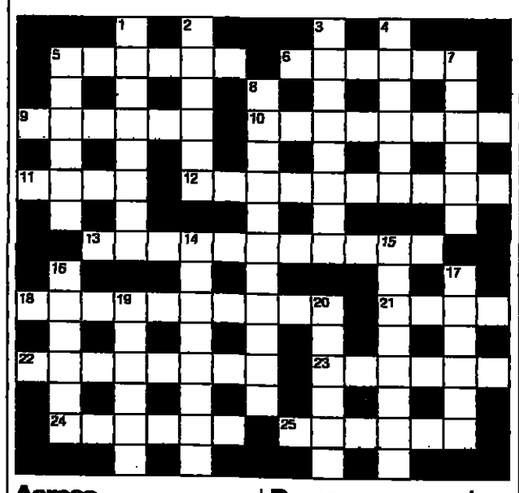


'Rather than being viewed distinctly, as murderer and victim, the girls were recalled in one breath, as if their deaths were part of some unfathomable blood rite.' Academically gifted but psychologically damaged

G2 p5

Guardian Crossword No 21,428

Set by Orlando

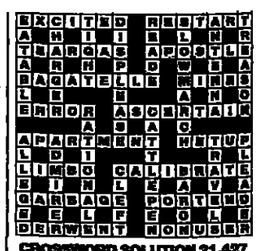


Across

5 Mum is ebbing fast (6)
6 Tender touch making *troubles start to subside* (6)
9 Only thus I agree (4,2)
10 Plain gold coin, capital in Yugoslavia (8)
11 Hairdo for a model (4)
12 London thoroughfare linked with Bond Street? (6,4)
13 Ignoring death, having reached the other side (7,4)
18 Get beneath bear (10)
21 Shape of zero value (4)
22 Predict toll-free transport (8)
23 V-sign is subject to change (6)
24 Habitual drunkard importing can-opener from Liverpool (5)
25 Undercover theologian restraining crime (9)

Down

1 God, entertained by prayer, provides superfluity (8)
2 A small deduction that's unique (3-3)
3 Sea dog in ruined naval base (3,5)
4 The gutter or the doghouse (5)
5 Material you start to find dull (6)
7 The time for sprouting and skipping out? (6)
8 Rabbits and cats toll not but spin (11)
14 Narrative device American writers revealed in some explanatory introductions (8)
15 Acts of self-aggrandisement, say, turning to tears (3-5)
16 Nettles making a sound we can hear (6)
17 Part of a gendarme: the butt (3,3)
19 New ore, fresh but previously *old-fashioned* (6)
20 Sundry birds (6)



CROSSWORD SOLUTION 21,427

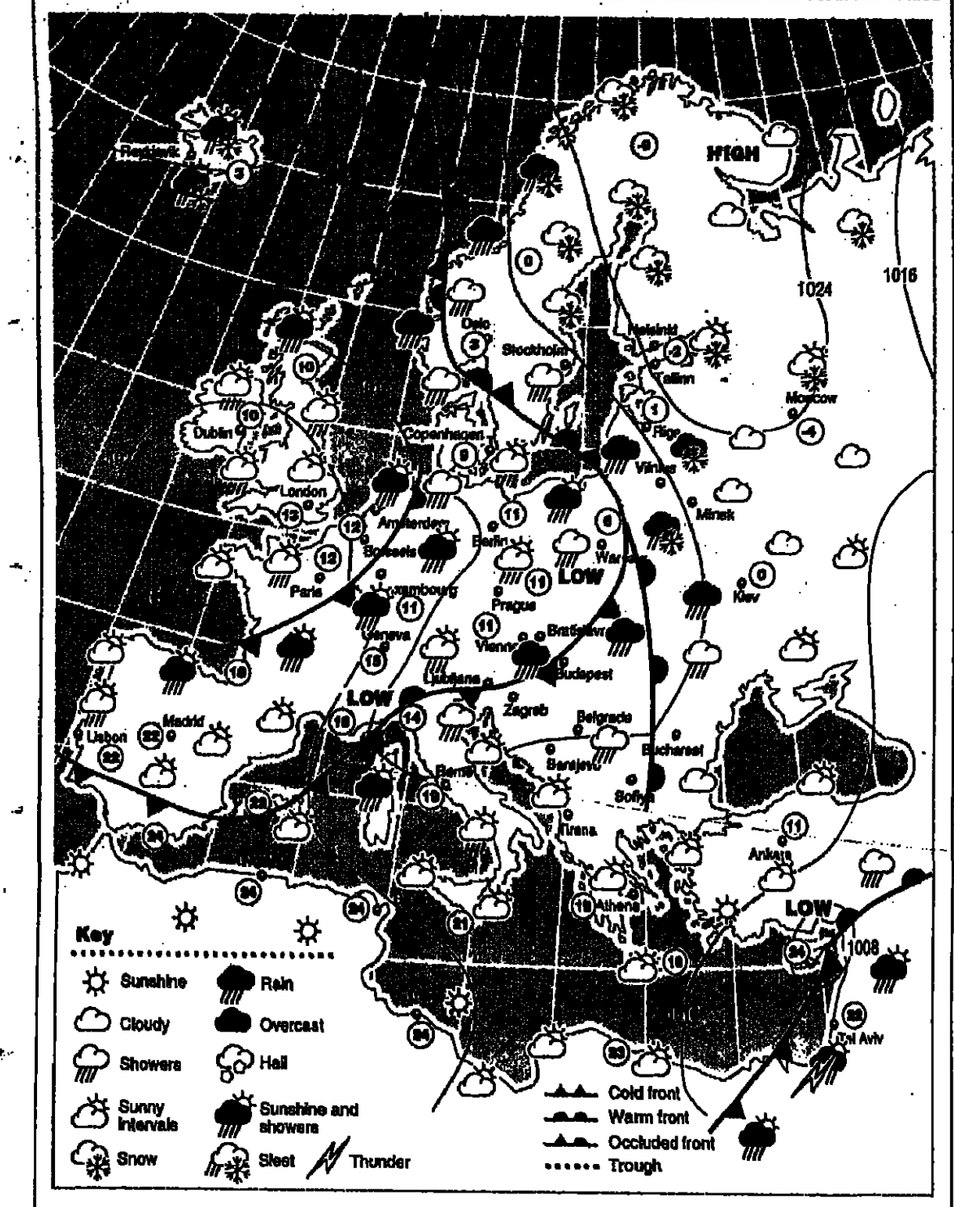
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Recycled paper made up 46.03% of the new material for UK newspapers in 1997
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The weather in Europe



Forecast for the cities

Today

	max	min	weather
Algiers	27	19	F
Amsterdam	12	6	Sh
Athens	19	12	F
Berlin	11	5	Sh
Bonn	12	4	Sh
Brussels	12	5	Sh
Copenhagen	9	3	Sh
Crete	16	13	F
Geneva	12	5	Sh
Larnaca	24	13	F
London	13	5	F
Madrid	22	7	F
Milan	13	7	R
Nice	16	11	F
Oslo	3	0	Sl
Paris	13	4	Sh
Rome	19	10	F
Stockholm	2	-2	Sl
Tunis	24	14	F
Venice	11	6	R

Tomorrow

	max	min	weather
Algiers	31	8	S
Amsterdam	11	6	Sh
Athens	20	14	F
Berlin	8	4	Sh
Bonn	10	4	Sh
Brussels	10	6	F
Copenhagen	7	2	Dr
Crete	20	13	Sh
Geneva	11	1	F
Larnaca	24	13	F
London	13	6	F
Madrid	23	7	F
Milan	16	6	F
Nice	19	10	S
Oslo	3	0	Sh
Paris	11	4	F
Rome	18	8	Sh
New Delhi	26	8	S
New Orleans	26	17	C
New York	12	8	Sh
Tunis	21	13	F
Venice	10	3	Sh

Thursday

	max	min	weather
Algiers	31	8	F
Amsterdam	10	5	Sh
Athens	19	13	Sh
Berlin	8	3	Sh
Bonn	9	4	Sh
Brussels	8	6	Sh
Copenhagen	7	2	Sh
Crete	22	14	Sh
Geneva	9	3	F
Larnaca	24	15	F
London	12	5	F
Madrid	20	9	F
Milan	14	6	F
Nice	17	10	S
Oslo	3	1	Sl
Paris	10	5	C
Rome	18	5	F
Stockholm	3	-2	F
Tunis	20	12	F
Venice	9	2	F

Friday

	max	min	weather
Algiers	33	11	F
Amsterdam	10	4	Th
Athens	18	12	Sh
Berlin	7	3	Sh
Bonn	9	2	Sh
Brussels	8	4	Sh
Copenhagen	7	2	R
Crete	19	12	Sh
Geneva	9	3	Sh
Larnaca	24	15	Th
London	11	4	Sh
Madrid	18	6	F
Milan	13	4	C
Nice	17	8	S
Oslo	3	1	Sl
Paris	9	4	Sh
Rome	18	5	Sh
Stockholm	3	-2	C
Tunis	22	13	F
Venice	7	1	Sh

C, cloudy; Dr, drizzle; F, fair; Fg, fog; H, hail; R, rain; Sl, sleet; Sn, snow; S, sunny; Th, thunder. * (previous day)

Around the world

Yesterday's lunchtime reports

		max	min
Ajaccio	S	17	63
Algiers	S	23	73
Alicante	S	19	66
Amsterdam	C	15	59
Athens	C	17	63
Auckland	F	20	68
B Aires	C	20	68
Bahrain	S	31	88
Bangkok	S	32	90
Barcelona	S	19	66
Beijing	S	14	57
Belgrade	C	7	45
Berlin	C	4	39
Bermuda	C	22	72
Biarritz	C	21	70
Bombay	F	32	90
Bordeaux	F	17	63
Boston	C	7	45
Brussels	C	14	57
Budapest	C	9	48
Cairo	F	24	75
Calcutta	C	31	88
Cape Town	C	20	68
Casablanca	F	24	75
Chicago	C	3	37
Copenhagen	C	5	41
Corfu	S	18	66
Dallas	C	10	50
Dhaka	C	30	86
Dublin	Sh	11	52
Faro	F	20	68
Florence	M	10	50
Frankfurt	R	10	50
Funchal	F	23	73
Geneva	S	12	54
Gibraltar	C	18	64
Helsinki	S	3	37
Hong Kong	S	26	79
Innsbruck	C	5	41
Istanbul	C	13	55
J'burg	C	19	66
K. Lumpur	C	34	93
Kingston	S	31	88
Larnaca	C	24	75
Lima	C	19	66
Lisbon	C	20	68

		max	min
London	F	15	59
Los Angeles	C	17	63
Luxembourg	R	12	54
Madrid	F	16	61
Majorca	S	19	66
Malaga	F	20	68
Malta	S	19	66
Melbourne	S	18	64
Mexico City	F	22	72
Miami	C	26	79
Milan	F	17	63
Montreal	Cl	4	39
Moscow	Sn	-4	25
Munich	R	9	48
Nairobi	C	21	70
Naples	F	18	64
New Delhi	S	24	75
New Orleans	C	26	77
New York	C	8	46
Nice	S	17	63
Oporto	C	18	64
Oslo	R	5	41
Paris	C	14	57
Perth	S	29	84
Prague	M	6	43
Reykjavik	R	6	43
Rhodes	S	19	66
Rio de Jan.	C	33	91
Rome	S	16	61
Sarajevo	M	3	37
Singapore	T	31	88
Stockholm	F	1	34
Strasbourg	C	13	55
Sydney	F	20	68
Tel Aviv	F	26	77
Tenerife	S	25	85
Tokyo	C	24	75
Toronto	C	7	45
Tunis	S	19	66
Vancouver	M	7	45
Venice	M	11	52
Vienna	C	8	46
Warsaw	M	-1	30
Washington	R	9	48
Wellington	C	17	63
Zurich	C	9	48

European weather outlook

Scandinavia:
Many places will stay below freezing with snow showers. However, it will become milder across Denmark and southern parts of Norway and Sweden with snow turning to rain, some of it heavy in the freshening wind. Highs will range widely from a bitter minus 9 in the north to plus 9 at the mildest in Copenhagen.

Low Countries, Germany, Austria, Switzerland:
Showers, some heavy and prolonged. Sunny spells will break through, however, with showers becoming fewer later. Fresh northwest winds. Highs from 11C in Luxembourg to 15C at best in Geneva.

France:
Rain in the south east will clear but it will stay changeable. There will be some sunshine but a band of showers will spread south eastwards, with the odd heavy downpour. Sunny spells will return later as showers become fewer. Highs between 11C in the north and 18C on the Riviera.

Spain and Portugal:
A few showers breaking out in the north, with a sharp downpour possible over the Cantabrian mountains, but dry elsewhere. Lengthy spells of sunshine, especially in the south. Highs ranging from only 16C in the north to a pleasantly warm 24 or 25C on the southern Costas and the Algarve.

Italy:
Central and northern areas may catch the odd shower but most of the country will be dry with spells of sunshine. The best of the sun is likely to be across Sicily, with highs of 21c. The Po Valley will be cool at only 14C.

Greece:
Dry with spells of sunshine, the best of them in the south. Highs around 18 or 19C but only 15C in some northern spots.

Television and radio

BBC 1

6.40am Business Breakfast. 9.25 BBC Breakfast News. 9.29 Kilroy. 10.40 Style Challenge. 11.05 City Hospital. 11.50 News; Regional News. 12.00 Red Rooms. 12.30 Can't Cook, Won't Cook. 12.55 News; Regional News and Weather. 1.00 Pass the Buck. 1.25 Going for a Song. 1.50 The Weather Show. 2.00 News. 2.30 Regional News. 2.40 Neighbours. 3.05 Ironside. 3.55 Wipeout. 4.25 Children's BBC: Playdays. 4.45 Bananaman. 4.50 Chucklevision. 5.10 Noah's Island. 5.35 The Queen's Nose. 5.50 Newsround. 5.55 Sylvor Green. 6.25 Neighbours. 7.00 News; 7.30 Regional News Magazine. 8.00 Holiday. 8.30 EastEnders. 9.00 Match of the Day – Live. 11.05 News; Regional News. 11.30 Frank Nightshade. 1.05 Frank. The Dirty Doctor. The Fatal Mission. 2.30 Weather. 2.40 BBC News 24.

BBC 2

7.30am Alaska – The Last Frontier? 8.05 The Little Polar Bear. 8.25 Teletubbies. 8.50 Tom and Jerry Kids. 9.35 Blue Peter. 9.55 Albert the Fifth Musketeer. 9.40 Walking. 9.55 The Little Polar Bear. 10.00 Flower's Safety. 10.10 Working It Out. 10.30 Clementine. 10.45 Numberblocks. 11.00 Teletubbies. 11.20 Watch. 11.45 Science Zone: Light and Sound. 12.05 Space Ark. 12.15 Magmathi. 12.30 Watch. 12.50 History File. 1.00 Higher Still. 1.30 Working Lunch. 2.00 Walking. 2.10 Sophie Grigson's Herbs. 2.15 The History Hour. 2.55 Match of Their Day. 3.40 News; Regional News. 3.45 Westminster with Dave Madill. 4.25 News; Regional News. 4.30 Gardeners' World. 5.00 Change That. 5.25 Pebble Mill. 6.00 Dad's Army. 6.30 Today's the Day. 7.00 Fresh Prince of Bel-Air. 7.25 Heartbreak High. 8.10 The O Zone. 8.30 Just One Chance. 9.00 University Challenge. 9.30 Dale's Hole in Cook. 10.00 Timewatch. 10.50 Talking Heads II. 11.30 Newsnight. 12.20 Video Nation Bangladesh Shorts. 12.10 Rainbird. 12.55 Lucy Sanders. 1.00 Despatch Box. 1.05 Weather. 1.30 Learning Zone. 5.45 Open University.

BBC Prime

● Intelsat

7.00am World News. 7.25 World Weather. 7.30 Mog and Sniff. 7.45 It'll Never Work. 8.00 Grange Hill. 8.25 Hot Chefs. 8.40 Ready, Steady, Cook. 8.55 Style Challenge. 9.20 Change That. 10.00 Kilroy. 10.45 Classic EastEnders. 11.35 The Face of Tutankhamun. 12.00 Dale Smith's Water Collection. 12.20 Ready, Steady, Cook. 1.05 Can't Cook, Won't Cook. 1.50 Change That. 1.55 World Weather. 2.00 Wildlife. 2.50 Classic EastEnders. 3.20 Kilroy. 3.40 Style Challenge. 4.05 World Weather. 4.10 Hot Chefs. 4.30 Mog and Sniff. 4.45 It'll Never Work. 5.00 Grange Hill. 5.25 Wildlife. 6.00 World News. 6.25 World Weather. 6.30 Ready, Steady, Cook. 7.00 Classic EastEnders. 7.50 Making Masterpieces. 8.00 Chef! 8.30 One Foot in the Grave. 9.00 Dangerfield. 9.50 Building Blight. 10.00 World News and World Business Report. 10.25 World Weather. 10.30 The Victorian Flower Garden. 11.00 Our Man in. 11.40 The Sky at Night. 12.00 Casualty. 12.50 World Weather. 1.00 Lyn Marshall's Everyday Yoga. 1.30 Look Ahead. 2.00 Sheena (62). 2.30 Spanish Globo. 2.35 Isabel. 2.55 Spanish Globo. 3.00 The Business Programme. 3.55 Twenty Steps to Better Management. 4.00 The Chemistry of Survival. 4.50 Earth and Life: Galapagos Lives. 5.00 Why Me? Why Now? 5.30 Deadly Quarrels. 6.00 Numbertime 1-10.

BBC World

● Eutelsat

7.00am World News and Weather. 7.30 World Living: Future Fantastic. 8.00 World News and Weather. 8.30 Hard Talk. 9.00 World News and Weather. 9.30 World Living: QED. 10.00 World News and Weather. 10.30 Hard Talk. 11.00 World News and Weather. 11.30 World Living: Earth Report. 11.58 World City Guides. 12.00 The World Today. 12.30 World City Guides. 1.00 The World Today. 1.30 World Focus: QED. 2.00 World News. 2.15 World Business Report and Weather. 2.30 The World Today. 3.30 World Living: Holiday. 3.58 World City Guides. 4.00 World News and Weather. 4.30 Hard Talk. 5.00 World News and Weather. 5.30 World Focus: Correspondent. 6.00 World News and Weather. 6.30 World Living: Future Fantastic. 6.58 World City Guides. 7.00 The World Today. 8.30 Hard Talk. 9.30 World News and Weather. 9.30 World Focus: Reporters. 9.58 World City Guides. 10.00 World News. 10.15 World Business Report and Weather. 10.30 World Living: The Mel. 11.00 World News. 11.15 Europa Direct. 11.58 World City Guides. 12.00 World News and Weather. 12.30 World Business Report. 12.45 Asia Today and Weather. 12.58 World City Guides. 1.00 World News and Weather. 1.30 World Focus: Future Fantastic. 2.00 News and Weather. 2.30 Asia Today. 2.45 World Business Report. 2.58 World City Guides. 3.00 News and Weather. 3.30 USA Direct. 4.00 News and Weather. 4.30 Asia Today. 4.45 World Business Report. 5.00 News and Weather. 5.30 USA Direct. 6.00 News and Weather. 6.30 World Focus: Reporters. 6.58 World City Guides.

Radio 4

92.4-94.6 NHz; 198 kHz (1514)

7.00am Today. 9.30 (LW) Yesterday in Parliament. 10.00 The Choice. 10.30 First Nights. 10.45 (FM) Serial: The Unknown Maltese. 10.45 (LW) Daily Service. 11.00 Woman's Hour. 12.00 Nature: Sharks in the Med. 12.30 Visiting Juta. 1.00 News. 1.00 (LW) News Headlines; Shipping Forecast. 1.04 You and Yours. 1.30 The World at One. 2.30 Oxide – Unquote. 3.00 The Archers. 3.15 Afternoon Play: As Revolt Johnny Onions. 4.00 The Exchange (FF) 680 (444). 4.30 Jarrow is Gin. 4.45 Escaping the Sky. 5.00 A Good Read. 5.30 Shipping Forecast. 5.40 (FM) 7.00 News. 7.30 Radio Shuttleworth. 8.00 The Archers. 8.15 Front Row. 8.45 Letters from a Lost Generation. 9.00 File on 4. 9.40 In Touch. 10.00 The News Hour. 10.30 The Choice. 11.00 The World Tonight. 11.45 Book at Bedtime: Captain Corelli's Mandolin. 12.00 Late Night on 4: The New Show. 12.50 (LW) Today in Parliament. 12.30 Talking Pictures. 1.00 News. 1.00 The Late Book: News of a Kidnapping. 1.45 Shipping Forecast. 2.00 As World Service. 5.20 World News. 5.28 Shipping Forecast. 5.40 Inshore Forecast. 5.48 Prayer for the Day. 5.47 Farming Today.

BBC World Service

BBC World Service can be received in England on NW 648 kHz (463m) and in Western Europe on LW 198 kHz (1515m)

9.00am News. 9.05 Off The Shelf: Tales from Ovid. 9.30 Chill Out. 9.00 News. 9.10 Pause for Thought. 9.15 Concert Hall. 10.00 News; (648 only) News in German. 10.05 World Business Report. 10.15 To Be Continued. 10.30 Plays In Focus: Death of a Salesman. 10.45 Sports Round-Up. 11.00 Newsdesk. 11.30 On Screen. 12.00 Newsdesk. 12.30 Citing the Wheels. 1.00 News. 1.05 World Business Report. 1.15 Britain Today. 1.30 Health Matters. 1.45 Sports Round-Up. 2.00 Newshour. 3.00 News. 3.05 Outlook. 3.30 Multimedia Hit List. 4.00 News; (648 only) News in German. 4.05 Sports Round-Up. 4.15 Weekend. 4.30 The Greatest Collection. 5.00 News. 5.15 Racing Stars. 5.30 Insight; (648 only) News in German. 5.45 British Today. 6.00 Europe Today. 6.30 World Business Report. 6.45 Sports Round-Up. 7.00 Newsdesk. 7.30 On Parole; (648 only) News in German. 8.00 News Summary. 8.01 Outlook. 8.25 Pause for Thought. 8.30 Magazine. 9.00 Newsdesk. 10.00 News. 10.05 World Business Report. 10.15 Britain Today. 10.30 Meridian Live. 11.00 Newsdesk. 11.30 Insight. 11.45 Sports Round-Up. 12.00 News. 12.05 Outlook. 12.30 Magazine. 1.00 Newsdesk. 1.30 The Learning World. 1.45 British Today. 2.00 Newsdesk. 2.30 Discovery. 3.00 Newsday. 3.30 Meridian Live. 4.00 News. 4.05 World Business Report. 4.15 Sports Round-Up. 4.30 On Screen. 5.00 The World Today. 6.00 The World Today.

Sky Premier

● Astra

7.00 Clara's Heart. 9.00 The Stars Fell on Henrietta. 11.00 In the Army Now. 5.00 Stolen Women. 6.00 The Stars Fell on Henrietta. 7.00 In the Army Now. 9.00 Madrid. 11.00 Donnie Brasco. 1.50 Some Mother's Son. 3.55 Things to Do in Denver When You're Dead. 5.00 Stolen Women.

Sky MovieMax

● Astra

7.00 To Brave Alaska. 8.45 When Time Expires. 10.30 James and the Giant Peach. 12.00 Shepherd on the Rock. 2.00 Son of Godzilla. 4.00 To Brave Alaska. 5.00 When Time Expires. 8.00 James and the Giant Peach. 10.00 If Looks Could Kill. 11.50 Moviefail. 12.00 Turbulence. 1.40 Murder in Mind. 3.15 The Truth about Cats and Dogs. 4.55 Suture.

Sky Cinema

● Astra

6.00 The Woman in Green. 8.00 Hollywood Hall of Fame: James Dean. 7.00 The Bravados. 9.00 Heartbeat. 11.00 Pony Express. 12.45 Records. 2.50 To Live and Die in LA. 4.50 Hollywood Hall of Fame: James Dean. 5.00 Beyond the Blue Horizon.

Sky Sports

● Astra

5.00 Sports Centre. 8.15 V-Max. 8.45 Powerboat and Jetsport World. 9.30 Sports Centre. 9.00 Racing News. 10.00 Horse Racing. 10.30 Football League Review. 11.30 Pool: World Masters. 12.30 V-Max. 1.00 Aerobics. 1.30 Monday Night Football. 3.30 Football League Review. 4.30 Showjumping: Bonus Meadows Horse Diaries. 5.30 World Wrestling. 6.00 WWF: Live Wire. 7.00 Sports Centre. 7.30 Inside Scottish Football. 8.00 Festiva. 8.30 Pool: World Trickshot Masters. 11.00 Sports Centre. 11.15 Footballers' Football Show. 12.15 Inside Scottish Football. 1.15 Sports Centre. 1.30 Pool: World Trickshot Masters. 5.30 Sports Centre. 5.45 Close.

Sky Sports 3

● Astra

1.00 WWF Wrestling: Live Wire. 3.00 Fish TV. 3.00 Dickie Davies' Sporting Heroes. 4.00 Cricket: Second Innings. 4.30 Cricket: Super Max 5s. 5.00 Festiva. 7.00 Golf: Business Golf Championship. 8.00 Fish TV. 8.00 Cricket: Super Max 5s. 11.00 Boxing: Superbouts. 12.00 Sportsnite. 12.00 Close.

Eurosport

● Astra/Eutelsat

3.30 Motorsport: IndyCar Fontana. 10.00 Motorsport: NASCAR Winston Cup Series. 11.30 Football: Eurogoals. 1.00 Snowboarding: Nations Cup. 2.00 Tennis: Paris Open – Live. 8.00 Football: Uefa Cup Second-Round Second-Leg – Live. 12.30 Motorsport: World Superbikes Championship. 1.30 Close.

Sky 1

● Astra

8.00 The Simpsons. 8.30 Chris Evans Breakfast Show. 9.30 Hollywood Squares. 10.00 Guilty! 11.00 Sally Jessy Raphael. 12.00 Oprah Winfrey. 1.00 Chris Evans Breakfast Show. 1.55 Special K Collection. 2.00 Days of Our Lives. 2.25 Special K Collection. 4.00 Sally Jessy Raphael. 3.25 Special K Collection. 4.00 Jenny Jones. 4.55 Special K Collection. 5.00 Guilty! 6.00 Star Trek: DS9. 7.00 Hamlet... Mini Children. 7.30 Dream Team. 8.00 The Simpsons. 8.30 Real TV. 9.00 Speed! 9.30 Coppers. 10.00 World's Scariest Police Stings. 11.00 Bits Uncovered. 11.30 Dream Team. 12.30 Star Trek: DS9. 1.30 Renegade. 2.30 Long Play.

National Geographic

● Astra

8.00 The Survival Game. 9.00 Quest for Atocha. 10.00 Wandering Warior. 11.00 Lost Worlds: Rape of Tolaphernes. 12.00 Australia's Aborigines. 1.00 Riding the Waves. 1.30 On Hawaii's Giant Wave. 2.00 Close.

UK Gold

● Astra

8.00 Crossroads. 8.30 Neighbours. 8.55 EastEnders. 9.30 The Bill. 10.00 The Bill. 10.30 Bergerac. 11.30 Angels. 12.00 Dallas. 12.55 Neighbours. 1.25 EastEnders. 2.00 The Houses of Eliott. 3.00 Dallas. 3.55 The Bill. 4.25 The Bill. 4.55 Bergerac. 5.55 EastEnders. 6.30 Angels. 7.00 Due South. 8.00 Last of the Summer Wine. 8.40 Ever Decreasing Circles. 9.30 Open All Hours. 10.00 Red Dwarf. 10.40 The Life. 11.30 NYPD Blue. 12.25 The Bill. 1.05 The Bill. 1.35 The Chief. 2.30 Colin's Sandwich. 3.00 West of the Divide. 4.00 Shopping at Night.

Discovery

● Astra/Intelsat

8.00 Rex Hunt's Fishing World. 8.30 Wheel Nuts. 9.00 First Flights. 9.30 Time Travellers. 7.00 Zoo Story. 7.30 Scorpion. 8.30 Ultra Science. 9.00 Coltrane's Trains, Planes and Automobiles. 9.30 Flightline. 10.00 Extreme Machines. 11.00 Final Lives of Fire: Consumed by Fire. 12.00 Tanks! A History of the Tank at War. 1.00 Secrets of the Humpback Whale. 2.00 First Flights. 2.30 Wheel Nuts. 3.00 Close.

European weather outlook

Scandinavia:
Many places will stay below freezing with snow showers. However, it will become milder across Denmark and southern parts of Norway and Sweden with snow turning to rain, some of it heavy in the freshening wind. Highs will range widely from a bitter minus 9 in the north to plus 9 at the mildest in Copenhagen.

Low Countries, Germany, Austria, Switzerland:
Showers, some heavy and prolonged. Sunny spells will break through, however, with showers becoming fewer later. Fresh northwest winds. Highs from 11C in Luxembourg to 15C at best in Geneva.

France:
Rain in the south east will clear but it will stay changeable. There will be some sunshine but a band of showers will spread south eastwards, with the odd heavy downpour. Sunny spells will return later as showers become fewer. Highs between 11C in the north and 18C on the Riviera.

Spain and Portugal:
A few showers breaking out in the north, with a sharp downpour possible over the Cantabrian mountains, but dry elsewhere. Lengthy spells of sunshine, especially in the south. Highs ranging from only 16C in the north to a pleasantly warm 24 or 25C on the southern Costas and the Algarve.

Italy:
Central and northern areas may catch the odd shower but most of the country will be dry with spells of sunshine. The best of the sun is likely to be across Sicily, with highs of 21c. The Po Valley will be cool at only 14C.

Greece:
Dry with spells of sunshine, the best of them in the south. Highs around 18 or 19C but only 15C in some northern spots.

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G2 EUROPE

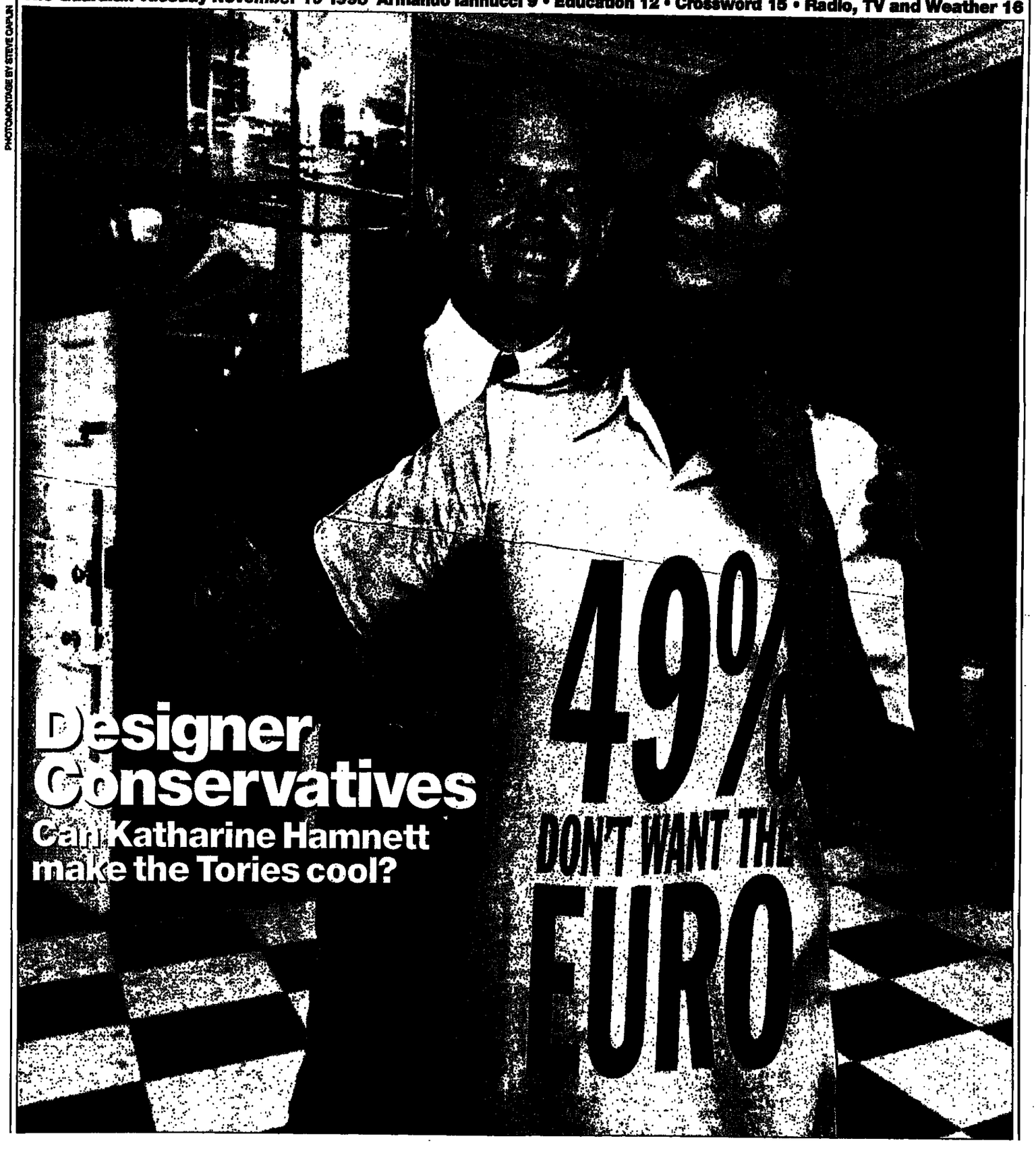
Women
Introducing the pink fluffy ministry...
4

Arts
The world's finest scab collection
7

Real Lives
Why *does* Jeremy Paxman wish he'd gone to war?
8

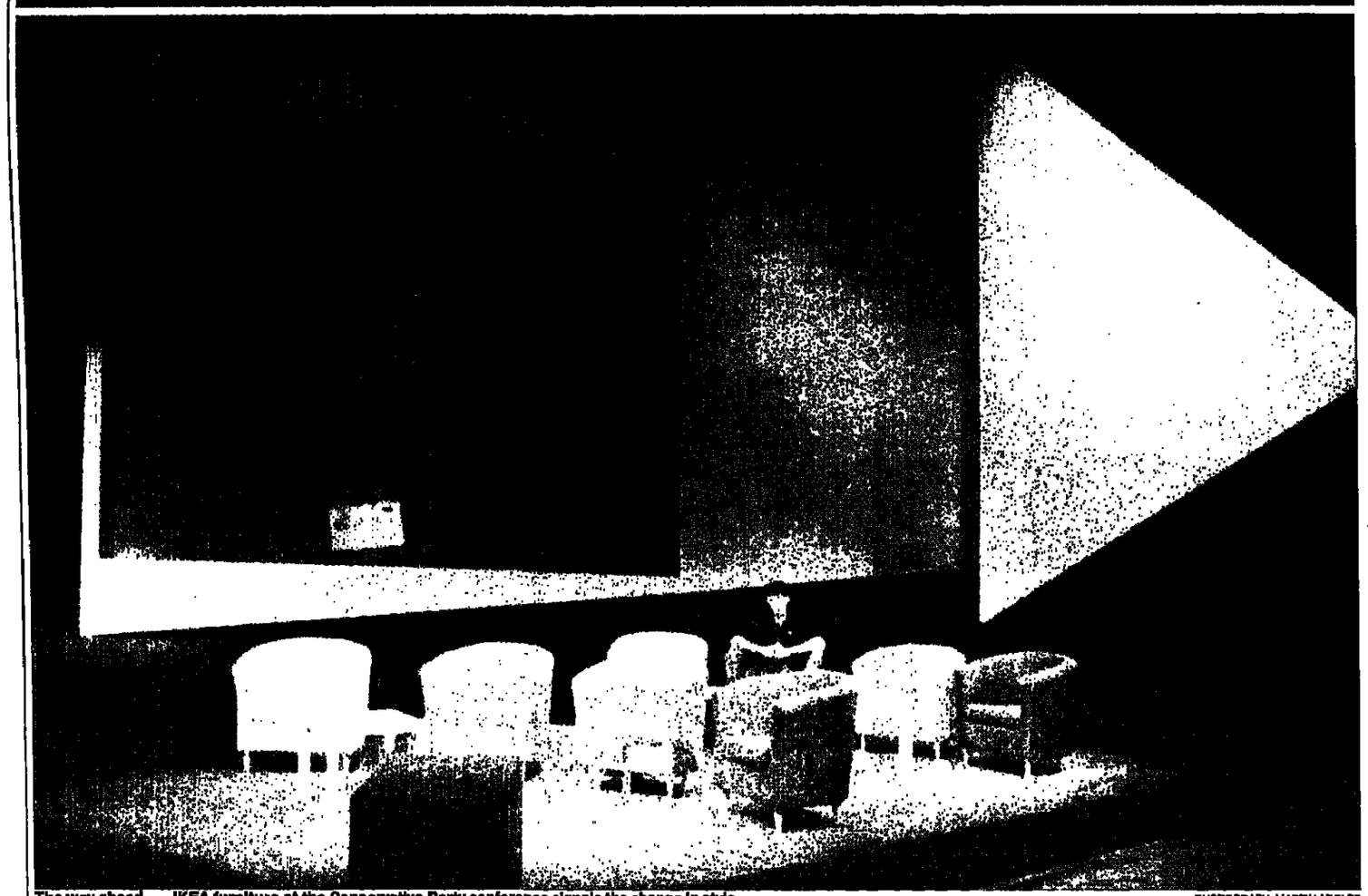
Plus
health
Can chewing gum improve your memory?
10

The Guardian Tuesday November 10 1998 Armando Iannucci 9 • Education 12 • Crossword 15 • Radio, TV and Weather 16



Outsiders are not entirely con- the party conference last month.) optimism that by chance a policy shirts on a high street near you.

http://passnotes.guardian.co.uk



The way ahead ... IKEA furniture at the Conservative Party conference signals the change in style PHOTOGRAPH: MARTIN ARGLES

Young, hip ... and Tory

The Conservatives insist they're not all old fogies dying off in the Shires, writes **Anne Perkins**. And now they've found some new friends to help them prove it

The Tories teeter on down the path to political reinvention, sticking closely to the route map drawn up so laboriously by Labour 10 years back. It has now emerged that the party's chief executive Archie Norman has invited a group of thirty-somethings from advertising and TV production to join a Creative Forum. It's to be a kind of shadow of the Shadow Communications Agency Labour set up for the 1992 election but with an even more ambitious agenda. In the words of one insider, it's going to "extract the party's DNA."

"The party's basic message at the moment is still 'we understand why we lost'," a Central Office source said last night, "and that we're ready to change everything except our core values. The Forum will do a brand audit, to answer the question, what does being a Tory mean?"

One recruit is Ceri Evans, Channel Four's creative director and briefly head of broadcasting at Conservative Central Office under the old regime. "I'm doing it because I am a Tory. I think it can help articulate William Hague's ambitions for the party."

But it could be that by the mere revelation of its existence, the Forum has already made its biggest contribution to Tory fortunes. After a generation when despite the electoral landslides, to admit being Tory was to commit fashion hara-kiri, the party hopes it is finally waving farewell to the days when Paul Daniels and Lulu were the height of Tory celebrity style (and Kenny Everett. Remember "Bomb Russia" at a 1983 Wembley rally?). Finally, it would like to believe, the party can claim the endorsement of the young and funky. The Creative Forum, or rather its members, are meant to send the subliminal message, being Tory isn't being dead, it's being hip.

Central Office could hardly contain its delight yesterday after Katharine Hamnett, the designer, publicly endorsed the message. Her only previous appearance above the political horizon was when she wore the celebrated "58% SAY NO" (to the Pershing missile, you may now need reminding) T-shirt to a Thatcher reception at Downing Street. But now she says, "The Conservatives are classic style" while Labour she dismisses as "a passing fad".

This is different from the star wars of the eighties, when the SNP pitched Sean Connery against the Tories' Nigel Havers and Labour weighed in with Antony Sher. This, according to one observer, is an entirely new game. "It's celebrity endorsement with a message," he said. "Labour started it, getting businessmen to back it in the run-up to the last election, which had the specific purpose of overcoming Labour's traditional problem of not being trusted to manage the economy."

Central Office, unsurprisingly, is anxious to stress the Forum's practical function as much as its symbolic one which it insists is merely a happy accident. It is to meet "regularly but not frequently" to brainstorm round such vexing questions as the party colour and logo, now assuming critical importance since parties will put their logo by their candidates' names at future elections. They are to bring a non-Smith Square perspective to the whole rebranding exercise, to make the party (which Hague has already said might even change its name) "modern, contemporary, attractive". Just the kind of exercise Messrs Hague and Norman might once have undertaken for clients in their management consultant days at McKinseys.

According to Ceri Evans, "There isn't a formal brief, but from William Hague's ambitions will grow things like party colours, the logo, the way below-the-line communications are handled, the whole advertising thing."



A lot more than the traditional regal blue and the symbolic torch will end up in the virtual skip at Central Office

But it's likely that a lot more than the traditional regal blue and the symbolic torch will end up in the virtual skip on the Central Office intranet. For a start, the old link with long-time Tory advertising guru Maurice Saatchi is not just dead, it's 10 feet under. The man who's fought elections for the Tories for 20 years through Saatchi & Saatchi and then M&C Saatchi, who did much to create the party of the eighties by turning Thatcherism into a series of slick and powerful messages, is out.

Their deliberately low-budget, unglitzy party political broadcasts are made by Anthony Gordon-Lennox's Tase production company. The contrast with the starch and slickness of the Saatchi era could hardly be more pronounced.

"There is a robust determination

Lectureship in Philosophy

Department of Philosophy

Vacancy 1028UKGD

We invite applications from qualified people for appointment to a Lectureship in Philosophy. Preference will be given to candidates with a research commitment and teaching interests in European Continental Philosophy.

The Department fosters a pluralist ethos involving different areas and styles of philosophy, and values collegiality; it is expected that the successful applicant will share these values.

Candidates should have or be about to qualify for an appropriate higher degree (PhD or equivalent) and should preferably have some research publications and teaching experience. They should have a commitment to both teaching and research.

Commencement date will be July 1999 (negotiable).

Further information and Conditions of Appointment should be obtained from the Academic Appointments Section, telephone 64-9-373 7599 ext 5097, fax 64-9-373 7023, email: appointments@auckland.ac.nz, or from our website: www.nzjobs.co.nz/auckland ac/

If mailing your application **three copies** must reach the Academic Appointments Section, The University of Auckland, Private Bag 92019, Auckland, New Zealand, by **7 December 1998.**

Please quote Vacancy Number 1028UKGD in all correspondence.

ASSISTANT REGISTRAR, ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

The University of Auckland

New Zealand

Coventry School of Art and Design

For further details and application forms please telephone/ 🖷 Minicom the Personnel Department on 01203 838120, email recruit.per@coventry.ac.uk or write enclosing a large self addressed envelope to Personnel Department, Coventry University, Priory Street, Coventry CV1 5FB.

Closing date: Thursday 26 November 1998.

We would particularly welcome applications from black/ethnic minority groups and people with disabilities who are under-represented in the University.

Lecturer/Senior Lecturer

£14,943 - £23,586/£22,797 - £29,088 (pro rata for fractional posts)

You will contribute to teaching, curriculum development, administration, research, scholarship and/or practice within a relevant subject area. Along with a degree or equivalent in a relevant subject, you must have professional experience in an appropriate area. Good communication skills, administrative and organisational ability and a flexible approach to work are essential.

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You will take a lead in delivering areas of theory and studio practice in print and multimedia to students on design and related courses. Along with a sound knowledge of current Graphic Design approaches and issues, you must be familiar with Applemacs and associated software. **Ref No: A72-80/98**

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You will have experience in technical communication (professional experience and/or a technical communication degree) and will be responsible for the delivery of undergraduate modules in technical communication. You will have strengths in one or more of the following: electronic document creation and design; professional issues and skills; usability testing. You will take an information design approach to the subject, and will be committed to maintaining an up-to-date knowledge of the technical communication profession. **Ref No: A73/98**

Tutorial Assistant

£14,943 - £17,301 (3 year fixed term appointment)

You will provide teaching assistance to the teaching team in Technical Communication and Graphic Design by contributing to project work, seminars, placement arrangements and related administrative activities.

Along with a degree in a relevant subject, you will have a strong interest in some aspect(s) of Technical Communication and the ability to communicate clearly and effectively. Your application would be strengthened by experience of working with students and/or employers and/or good computer skills. **Ref No: A74/98**

COVENTRY UNIVERSITY

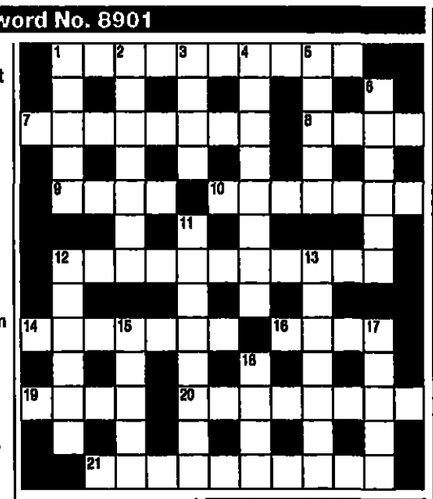
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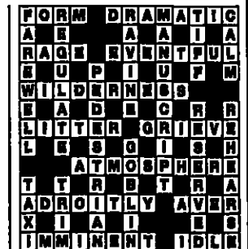
Across

1 Promise — a fight (10)
7 Alarmed (8)
8 Twilight (4)
9 Perched (4)
10 Travel (7)
12 Student's award — academic achievement (11)
14 Precis (7)
16 Threesome (4)
19 Cook (4)
20 Surplus — to brim over (8)
21 Unlike (10)

Down

1 Additional (5)
2 Sharing (anag) — a bit of parsley, perhaps (7)
3 Swallow (4)
4 So-so (6)
5 Rock bottom (5)
6 Dormant (6)
11 Resplendent (8)
12 Searched for (6)
13 Injurious (7)
15 Plain clothes (5)
17 Smell (5)
18 Support — wide smile (4)

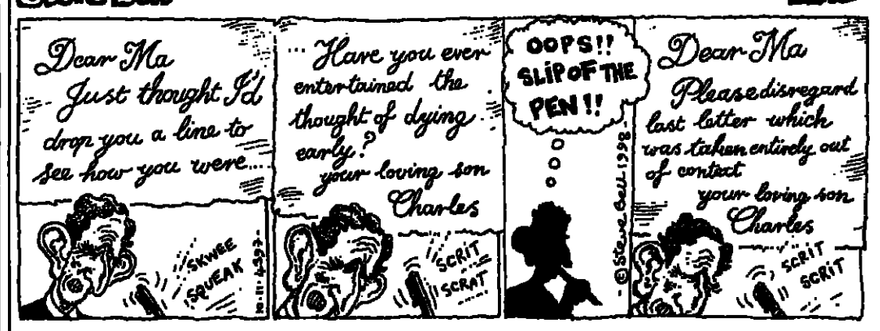




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Tameside

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We are looking to recruit an effective Senior Manager with a proven record of success in the Education field.

This key role will require you to:

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A recruitment pack can be obtained from the Director of Education, Education Personnel Section, Council Offices, Wellington Road, Ashton-under-Lyne OL6 6DL.

Telephone 0161 342 3685/3237. Minicom 0161 342 2201. 24 hr ansaphone available, 0161 342 2211.

nick.forrest@educ.tameside.gov.uk

Please quote reference no: ED1126

Closing date: 27th November 1998.

Tameside is an equal opportunity employer

INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

FACULTY OF BUSINESS AND LAW

Senior Lecturer in Accounting and Finance

£22,012 - £29,086

You should be capable of lecturing at all levels from introductory work through to the final stages of professional qualification. An ability in management accounting up to intermediate levels is important. Up-to-date tax knowledge and an ability to teach it would be a distinct advantage and you should have a good degree and be professionally qualified.

The Department is busy, committed to theory into practice, and offers an excellent opportunity for someone wishing to start a career in academic life and who has a lively, committed and can-do attitude. There are opportunities to undertake research and consultancy work in which the department has an enviable competent record.

For an informal discussion or further details please contact Professor G J Wilkinson-Riddle, Department of Accounting and Finance on 0116. 257 7211 or email: gjwacc@dmu.ac.uk

Application forms and further details are available from The Personnel Department, De Montfort University, The Gateway, Leicester LE1 9BH. Tel: 0116. 257 7384 (24 hour answerphone). Please quote Ref: 1019.

Closing date: 26 November 1998.

DE MONTFORT UNIVERSITY LEICESTER

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UNIVERSITY COLLEGE CHESTER
A College of the University of Liverpool

ACADEMIC QUALITY UNIT

Assistant Registrar

£18,036 - £19,257 • 2 YEAR FIXED TERM

The person appointed should be qualified to degree status or have an equivalent professional qualification or experience. The successful candidate will have an understanding of the principles of quality assurance and specific experience of their application plus a high level of analytical and synthesis skills for report writing. At least 3-5 years experience of administrative procedures is desirable.

Ref: DC-058/98

Completed application forms must be received no later than Monday 23rd November.

Geography Lecturer

TENABLE FROM 1.1.99 (OR AS SOON THEREAFTER AS POSSIBLE) £14,148 - £23,685 • 2 YEAR FIXED TERM

A vacancy exists for a lecturer in Human and Economic Geography. The person will be required for January if possible.

Applicants must hold an honours degree in Geography or a related area, together with a higher degree, taught or research Masters. A strong awareness of current research and development within Human/Economic Geography is required.

Ref: DC-057/98

Completed application forms must be received no later than Monday 30th November. Interviews to be held w/b 14th December 1998.

IMPERIAL COLLEGE OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & MEDICINE

Department of Aeronautics

Post-Doctoral Research Associate

Applications are invited for a research associate to join the composite structures group in the Department of Aeronautics by 1 February 1999, or as soon as possible thereafter. The post is funded by the European Union (BRITE/EURAM BE97-4734) and will run for two years.

The research is part of a three-year European programme (with 11 industrial partners, including Aerospatiale, Daimler Benz, Saab Dynamics) to develop innovative joining technologies for metal matrix composites. Applicants must have a theoretical or numerical background in mechanics applied to engineering materials. Working experience is needed in elasticity and plasticity theory, with numerical skills including finite elements. Salary will be on the scale for RA1A (£15,735 to £23,551 p.a.) plus London Allowance of £2,134, according to qualifications and relevant experience.

Applications with full CV and the names and addresses of three referees should be sent, not later than 11 December 1998, to Mrs R Fairhurst, Department of Aeronautics, Prince Consort Road, London SW7 2BY. (Tel: +44(0)171-594 5056, Fax: +44(0)171-584 8120, e-mail: r.fairhurst@ic.ac.uk).

The College is striving towards Equal Opportunities

University of Hertfordshire

Faculty of Natural Sciences

Faculty Registrar – Hatfield Campus

Salary: £27,324 - £29,284 p.a.

The Faculty Registrar is responsible to the Dean on a day-to-day basis for the overall direction and co-ordination of the administration of the Faculty and the management of secretarial and administrative staff and other resources.

Applicants should have at least a first degree or equivalent, several years' experience of administration at a senior level and a proven track record of staff and systems management. The ability to write clearly and concisely, first rate communication skills and numeracy are all required. The post is vacant from 1 December 1998.

Further details for the above post from the Personnel Department, University of Hertfordshire, Hatfield, AL10 9AB or tel: 01707 284802 (24 hour voicemail), quoting ref T3805G. Closing date 27 November 1998.

The University of Hertfordshire is committed to promoting Equal Opportunities

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Heriot-Watt University
Edinburgh

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LECTURESHIPS IN FINANCE

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It is expected that you will hold or be close to completion of a PhD. If you do not hold a PhD you will be expected to register for one. Any area of interest within Finance will be considered.

Informal enquiries to Professor J Haslam (0131 451 3716), Professor I Hirst (0131 451 3555) or Professor P Weetman (0131 451 3293).

For application details please contact the Personnel Office, Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh, EH14 4AS. Tel 0131 451 3475 quoting Ref 175/98/G. Closing date: 27 November 1998.

CLERICAL OFFICER

SOAS University of London

Graduate School (Registry)

£14½K - £17K pa inc.

Applicants must have several years relevant experience, excellent keyboard/WP skills, be able to communicate effectively in person, in writing and by telephone and be able to organise their work effectively.

An application form and job description may be obtained from the Personnel Office, School of Oriental and African Studies, Thornhaugh Street, Russell Square, London WC1H 0XG (tel no: 0171 323 6189 between 10:00am and 12:00pm. Fax no: 0171 636 2779. E-mail: personnel@soas.ac.uk). No CVs or agencies.

Closing date: Tuesday 24 November 1998.

SOAS is an equal opportunities employer.

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

Department of Applied Mathematics and Theoretical Physics

Millenium Mathematics Project Administrator

Required from 1 January 1999, to assist the Director of the Millenium Mathematics Project, a new programme for the next century to raise the appreciation of mathematics and its applications amongst the general public and young people.

The Administrator will be responsible for the project office, preparation of grant applications, conference organisation, purchasing, financial monitoring, co-ordination of participating groups, computer officers' activities, and participate in fund-raising. A good level of computer literacy is required.

Salary will be related to age, on the scale £22,726 to £26,523. Appointment will be for two years in the first instance. Further particulars are available from Professor D G Crighton, F.R.S., DAMTP, Silver Street, Cambridge CB3 9EW, tel 01223 337855, or email D.G.Crighton@damtp.cam.ac.uk. Applications, including a c.v. with the names of three referees, should reach him by 29 November 1998.

The University follows an equal opportunities policy

Beating the blues: Hague's new creative types ... and the old stars



Robin Wight
Partner in Wight Advertising Agency. Was asked to join the Tory panel after recent consultancy work on Conservative Party Political Broadcasts. Hypo recently conceived the advertising campaign for the new Stanmore synagogue in north-west London.

Neil Bennett
City Editor of the Sunday Telegraph. Has been in his present job since 1995, having previously been [illegible]

Michael Isaacs
Partner in Wight Advertising Agency. Was asked to join the Tory panel after recent consultancy work on Conservative Party Political Broadcasts. Hypo recently conceived the advertising campaign for the new Stanmore synagogue in north-west London.

James Bethell
Media director Ministry of Sound – was a 31-year-old son of a Tory peer. Worked for Tory Central Office in the [illegible]

Martin Sorrell
Group Chief Executive, WPP advertising agency – Former financial director of Saatchi & Saatchi with responsibility for media buying. Press is said to have described as "odious" [illegible] Conservative Party when it was [illegible] Now 53, he has always voted Conservative, although he cites JFK as his favourite politician.

Kathryn Flett
[illegible]

Jane Atkinson
[illegible]

Brian Burchell
[illegible]

Carl [illegible]
[illegible]

Four agencies seeking the overall identity of the station.

Paul Daniels ... party tricks

Lulu ... sang Tory praises

Kenny Everett ... Bomb Russians

not to use M&C Saatchi again," Smith Square says. The wounds left by the bitter rows over the last election campaign (Demon Eyes wasn't the only problem) are clearly seeping still. "It's no longer possible to have a proper commercial relationship with Maurice. He's too big, and because of his size, it's impossible to have a normal client/agency relationship, simply to give him a brief and expect him to go away and do it. During the election we used to ask him to go away and do a new ad and he'd come back with a new argument for the same ad."

There may be sound practical reasons for the breach but it also reinforces the message that this is a new Conservative Party, distant from those now all-too-easily satirised commercials. "It's quite sensible," according to one observer familiar with the old relationship, "it does look good, to jettison such an integral part of the baggage of the eighties and nineties."

The lack of an agency may also add to the enthusiasm of some the Creative Forum's recruits from ad agencies like Michael Isaacs from Hype and Robin Wight of WCRS.

Outsiders are not entirely convinced it will work. "They're volunteers, so they won't take things quite so seriously as professionals," an ex-Central Office worker said last night, "and they're working as a group, so it's not a question of one agency making a name for itself. And, if they argue, there isn't the incentive of all working for the same agency to get a decision."

Nor is Labour's memory of its own Shadow Communications Agency entirely happy: there were rivalries and tensions with party staffers and Philip Gould, who ran it, was bitterly attacked as the strategist of the 1992 defeat. "If he's that good," party workers used to moan, "why isn't he paid for doing it?"

One ex-Central Office staffer who watched Labour's Shadow Communications Agency from inside Smith Square thinks his successors' absorption in questions of style is perilously close to the danger mark. "Style is not as important as the message. You can have too many stories about colours and IKEA furniture (which got more column inches than anything else at the party conference last month.) This Creative Forum is less important than getting the message right."

But party strategists think they may have the answer to that. After years when the party seemed set on policies invented by young fogies for old fogies (pro-nuclear, pro-business, anti-green and intolerant), it may have emerged, they believe, with a genuine policy position with appeal to that critical age group, the under-25s. The single currency.

Tory research some months ago threw up the unexpected finding that the most Emu-sceptical age group was the 18-24-year-olds, even more sceptical than the over-65s. The findings were confirmed when they tested them again in research for the launch of the party's new youth arm, Conservative Forward.

"It has to be marketed properly, but there is an opportunity here to broaden our appeal," one source said last night. "Young people aren't anti-single currency because they are anti-Europe, it's more that they look at things globally and when they look at the single currency they see a 'little' Europe, like a 'little' England."

Bizarrely, there is now cautious optimism that by chance a policy position chosen by its rump of elderly core supporters could turn out to be a vote winner. The party is claiming that its internal referendum on Hague's "not for 10 years at least" single currency policy drew in 10,000 new members and brought back another 10,000 who had left. If the figures are confirmed it would be the biggest single membership boost for a generation.

At 51, Katharine Hamnett is hardly in the young voter category. But her support for the Tories is strongly influenced by her hostility to Labour's position on joining monetary union. "Cool Britannia is really Craven UK plc, about to be swallowed in a European takeover ... Everything is for sale. Now Labour wants to sell Britain's independence in return for the Euro," she wrote in an article in yesterday's Independent. She concluded: "Good designers can tell the difference between a passing fad and a classic style. I'm not sure the Government can."

Central Office denied they'd helped, Alastair Campbell-like, to compose the article. But don't be surprised if you soon see "classic style" T-shirts on a high street near you.

Pass notes

No 1303

Scarlett O'Hara



Age: Frankly my dear, I don't give a toss.

Fiddle me dee, they haven't gone and modernised Gone With The Wind have they? Not quite, but you're not far off. Start again.

Go on then. Age: Margaret Mitchell wrote it in 1936 so I guess Scarlett's 62. Not much life in the old girl now.

Whoa there, what do you mean? Scarlett O'Hara will live for ever. Even if you haven't read the book, she was immortalised by Vivien Leigh on screen. I know, but they're going to kill her off in a new sequel.

Back With the Wind? No, it will be called The Rules of Pride: The Autobiography of Capt Rhett Butler. To be written by bestselling author Pat Conroy. Negotiations have been going on for two years.

Bestselling author Pat Conroy, eh? I'm just trying to remember which my favourite Conroy is. Stop that.

Why so long in negotiations? The trustees, who have the book's rights, were horrified that Scarlett was to be killed off. But they came round and Pat claims it's going to be "the most memorable literary death since Anna Karenina threw herself under a train."

"Modest Pat" they call her, apparently. Erm ... him.

Excuse me? Him, Pat's a him.

Brilliant. So they've got a bloke recreating one of the great female character's in American literature. And killing her. Be fair, Conroy is very involved; he wrote the preface to the 60th anniversary edition. "To Southerners like my mother," he said "Gone With The Wind was not just a book, it was an answer, a clenched fist raised to the North, an anthem of defiance."

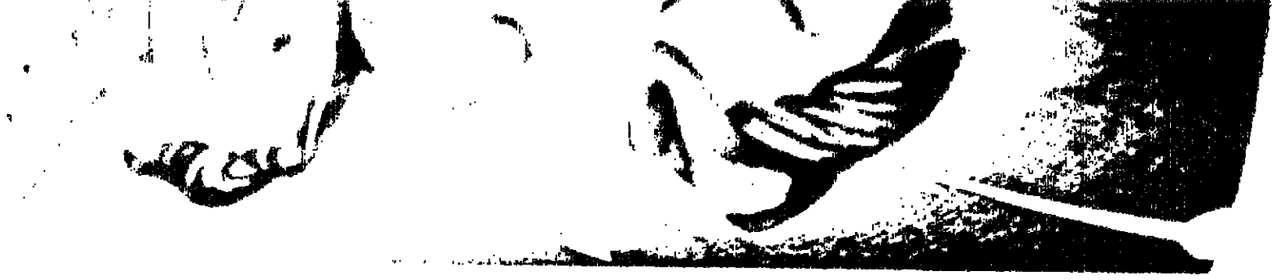
Enough of that. Any money involved? Well, apparently he's been going around saying: "I swear I will never be poor or hungry again."

And "Tomorrow's another day" no doubt. Go on, how much? Don't be so distasteful, this is literature. If we were talking pillars of wisdom, there'd be a figure for each one. Or, on a more Conroyian level, one for every dwarf.

But what's all the fuss; there've been sequels before, haven't there? Pride and Prejudice, Emma, Wuthering Heights. And this is the second time Gone With The Wind's been done — Scarlett by Alexandra Ripley came out in 1991, but the heroine survived that time.

So watch out if you are: Becky Sharp, Anne of Green Gables, Bridget Jones.

Are you a Pass Master? http://passnotes.guardian.co.uk



Women

Thanks for the note, Tony

When Labour yesterday unveiled its revamped, all-singing, all-dancing women's unit, the main man was missing. And so was the big idea. **Yvonne Roberts** reports

So, Gerri Halliwell and Emma Thompson are to be pushed as the new role models for teenagers. This "Big Idea" is what yesterday's papers plucked from what should have been a powerful relaunch of New Labour's initiatives for women. Never mind whether we want our daughters emulating the pop singer and the actress, or even whether "role models" actually carry much influence (unless, as surveys already tell us, the role model is your mum) — surely someone in the 47-strong women's unit should have been able to manipulate the message more adeptly than this? As it is, the revamped women's ministry now comes across as having as much relevance to the real world as the pink fluff on a pair of bedroom slippers.

Style, of course, shouldn't come before content. But since presentation is an activity in which New Labour prides itself, why does the women's ministry continue to fail so abysmally in this area? Cynics will of course say it's because senior politicians aren't entirely convinced of its high priority. Remember Tony Blair's appointment of Harriet Harman as women's minister only as an embarrassed afterthought and Joan Ruddock's unpaid status? Careless gestures towards roles alleged to be at the heart of government.

Yesterday it was more of the same. What could have been a triumphal show starred that rising trio the Jay sisters. Baroness Margaret Jay, minister for women, is also Leader of the House of Lords, Tessa Jowell is women's minister (as well as minister for health) in the Commons and Helen Liddell is minister for women (and minister of state) for Scotland. Each is supremely capable of outplaying most of their male counterparts at the Westminster game of politics, while Liddell and Jay are also considered particularly scary by macho civil servants. In short, these are women who know how to get things done.

Under the label Delivering For Women, they claimed 18 initiatives — most launched during Harriet Harman's reign. Among them were the national childcare strategy, the working families tax credit and the minimum wage. But the label should more accurately have read Promising For Women (And Men) since much still depends upon money, monitoring, detail and delivery.

Still, in theory, New Labour has made an impressive beginning. So why the fear that, in spite of this and the pledges of good things to come, the women's ministry, far from being central to government planning, somehow remains a sideshow, one that attracts attention only sporadically and which too often fails to convince even those women it is intended to help?

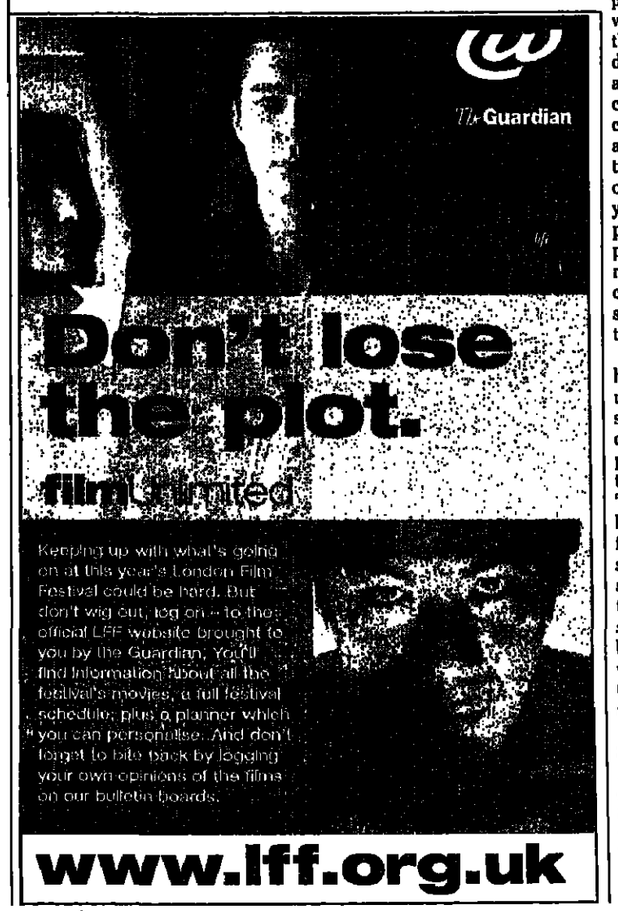
The bad news is that this might be due to the ministry's lack of focused strategy, its desperately poor presentation, its inadequate resources and the lack of high-profile support from Tony Blair and other male ministers. If the relaunch was genuinely to carry clout, Tony Blair should have been present. Instead, he sent a note of support.

The good news, however, is that many of the problems are fixable. Yesterday's press conference was held under the slogan Better For Women, Better For All. One of its papers stated: "It is essential that women's needs and interests are first thoughts, not afterthoughts, in every department's policy-making." The argument that has yet to be made clearly or often enough is: why? In a climate in which (some) women have allegedly never had it so good, at a time when women's magazines are overflowing with interviews with 25-year-olds who just don't see what the problem is (just wait) and when the plight of (workless) young men is rightly flagged as a major political concern, it takes more than a catchy slogan to get the political momentum rolling (again).

What might have helped is if Blair had not only made an appearance — remember the powerful message sent to local authorities, employers, civil servants et al by Gordon Brown's pronouncement in the 1997 budget that henceforth childcare is to be an "integral part of economic strategy" — but also once more underlined the fact that women in the nineties are still squeezed into an economic, social and welfare system that treats them as fifties unpaid housewives, secure for life in the arms of a husband who remains perpetually in work. That would have made the 10 O'Clock News and given the event the spin it desperately needed.

According to the Family Policy Studies Centre, a woman who takes time out to have two children will earn only 55 per cent of the pay of those who remain childless (one reason, perhaps, for our plummeting birth rate). Time out, as we all know, not only means less money; it may mean, on return to employment, that







their history: the Labour Cabinet, unlike previous Cabinets, was dominated by graduates from red brick universities, such as Sheffield and Edinburgh, rather than Cambridge or Oxford. It wasn't even clear whether the ministers with contacts with the ancient universities were hostile or sympathetic to the Oxbridge cause.

They also faced a new network of government advisers and lobbyists wielding influence within Whitehall, epitomised by Draper, a former aide of the trade and industry secretary, Peter Mandelson.

> In opposition, the current Labour ministers had perhaps four or five aides, half of whom became special advisers after the election, the other half who set up as lobbyists," explains one lobbyist. Lobbyists can use strong links with special advisers to bypass civil servants.

Ironically for the Oxford and Cambridge universities, perhaps, many of the current links within Westminster were formed long ago at university. A large proportion of today's lobbyists, advisers, MPs and ministers started their political careers working for the National Union of Students, many like Draper, for example, rubbing shoulders during the late 80s and early 90s at Manchester University where the National Organisation of Labour Students is based.

Tim Walker (adviser to Jack Cunningham), Ed Owen (adviser to Jack Straw — a former NUS president), Julian Eccles (adviser at the Department for Culture), Darren Murphy (adviser at the Department of Environment), and Pat McFadden and Faz Hakim (members of the prime minister's advisory team), are just some of those with links to the NUS and student politics.

Recently installed MPs, who were former NUS presidents, include Lorna Fitzsimmons, Stephen Twigg and Jim Murphy. Meanwhile, Charles Clarke, another former NUS president, was recently appointed education minister.

While the balance of power may have shifted away from Oxbridge, it is still true that a university education is the quickest route to power within government.

Lee Elliot Major is deputy editor of Research Fortnight.



Old ties

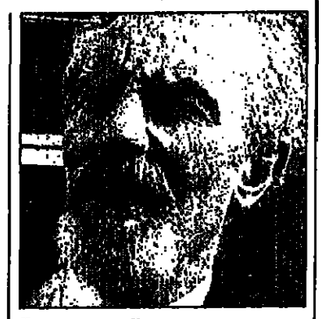
University grouping: The Russell group, which represents the 18 heads of the traditional large research-led universities, including the Oxbridge VCs.
Issues of concern: concentration of research funds, medical schools, standards of postgraduate degrees
Hired lobbyists: none
Nature of lobbying: Named after meetings convened at the Russell Hotel in London, but meets regularly before CVCP meetings to discuss common issues. Ministers and other influential figures are invited to lunches or dinners every two months or so.
Comments: "Up to now we have seen no need to hire professional lobbyists," said one vice-chancellor. "David Blunkett has been along to one of the group's actual meetings."


Seat of lobbying: Russell Hotel

New suits


Copland: 'new' group convenor

University grouping: The Coalition of Modern Universities, which represents heads of 28 ex-polys.
Issues of concern: teaching infrastructure, training non-traditional students, links with further education colleges.
Hired lobbyists: CMU employs one of the largest lobbying firms, Westminster Strategy, whose director, Mike Lee, was a former adviser to Education and Employment Secretary, David Blunkett.
Nature of lobbying: Westminster Strategy helps the group to shape their messages for dealings with parliament and press, and sets up meetings with ministers.
Comments: Geoffrey Copland, vice-chancellor of Westminster University, who convenes the group, says it cannot depend on the old school tie networks. "The Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals can only present an averaged view for all universities, whereas us, the 94 or Russell groups will have particular issues."



Learning curve

Roger Coghill on cadavers, Graham Chapman and and a very red-faced teacher

Mobile phones do your brain in, reckons Roger Coghill. This cranial concern, which spurred the independent research biologist to take a private criminal prosecution yesterday against a local mobile phone dealer in South Wales, goes back to his Cambridge undergraduate days at the end of the 1950s.

He persuaded the late Graham Chapman, then a medical student who would achieve Monty Python fame, to smuggle him into the dissecting room so that he could look at the brain of the cadaver Chapman was working on.

"I happened to remark I was hungry. Graham, who was working on the feet, tore off a toe, handed it to me and said: 'Here you are. This will keep you going.' The incident is burned into my memory . . ."

He started off reading classics, but when he came to do his Part I exams — 37 of them — after two years he wanted to change.

"I could read Latin and Greek pretty well and I wanted something else. I was mindful that at the typical 18th-century dinner party people would be able to discuss scientific and arts subjects."

His application to change to natural sciences met with incredulity. "They told me: 'You don't know any science.' I said: 'You are right. That's why I am here.' "

The condition was he would stay all summer in Cambridge studying science and then sit an exam. The upshot was a senior exhibition.

For recreation he did judo and went sailing with a fellow student, Martin Neary, the organist negotiating rather choppy waters at Westminster Abbey. He also acted in college productions. One play, by Christopher Isherwood, was only memorable when his character desperately tried to open a door in the set to admit the character Graham Chapman played.

"Somebody had nailed the door shut, probably Graham himself."

But the most embarrassing moment came when his old schoolteacher visited him the same weekend as his girlfriend. "They didn't know each other, travelled up on the same train and he importuned her.

"When he later knocked on my door and found her with me you can imagine the astonishment all round."

Peter Kingston

Education

Universities are joining the scramble to lobby ministers as the old networks break down — and looking to former student politicians for help. Report by **Lee Elliot Major**



Watch out, Whitehall

The hiring of disgraced lobbyist Derek Draper by the University of Oxford earlier this year exposed the new nature of power within Whitehall under the present Labour government, and its links with academia.

Like other businesses eager to influence the Government's new policies, universities are increasingly paying for the services of the professional lobbying firms which now surround Westminster.

Yet gone are the days when the Oxbridge networks of senior ministers and government officials monopolised power within government. Today's breed of government advisers and lobbyists are more likely to have Armani suits than old school ties in common, and to have met during student Labour meetings at Manchester University rather than in the debating society at Oxford. The National Union of Students is to the Labour Party what Oxbridge was to the Conservatives, it is now claimed.

There is a lengthening list of university groups now investing in lobbyists. For example, the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals, which represents the interests of all universities, employed the lobbyists Bell Pottinger when the Government was making decisions on the introduction of student tuition fees and also during the recent Comprehensive Spending Review.

The Association of University Teachers, the main union for university lecturers, uses Connect Public Affairs to monitor proceedings in parliament. Meanwhile, the Coalition of Modern Universities, a grouping that represents heads of the former polytechnics has for some time employed the political consultants, Westminster Strategy (see panel, bottom right). Other universities have individually signed up public affairs consultants, such as Shandwick, which also provide parliamentary services for clients.

Lobbyists today are more likely to have Armani suits than school ties in common

Much of what the lobbyists are paid for is simply information or intelligence-gathering: making sense of the often obscure, secretive, and increasingly complex workings of the Government and Parliament. This may cover simple tasks, such as monitoring Hansard parliamentary debates, through to identifying key decision-makers in relevant government departments, as well as influential parliamentary committee members not in government (see panel, top right).

Political consultants also help clients to present their views to the Government. In its most harmless form this means voicing outside opinion — something that has gone on since government existed. But in its most shady incarnation, it can mean buying access to influence key decision-makers, not through reasoned argument but personal favour. Either way, the lobbyist's skills include knowing how to present the message and, crucially, who it should be presented to.

The full range of lobbying tactics appear to have been used when Oxford and Cambridge universities earlier this year hired parliamentary consultants to aid their campaign to retain the special government subsidy for the Oxbridge colleges' one-to-one tutorial system. Cambridge employed David Hughes of Cothlestone Consulting, while Oxford used Derek Draper, who then worked for the lobbying firm, GPC Market Access.

According to Alan Clark, Cambridge's deputy registrar, Cambridge employed a lobbyist only to monitor what was happening in parliament, rather than directly lobby it. But at least one (rival) lobbyist says that the hiring of Draper by Oxford University "was more in the category of who can I ring up and influence" rather than mere information gathering.

Draper first worked for the Oxford campaign as a director of the lobbying firm Prima Europe, which was this year taken over by the lobbyists, GPC Market Access. And only days before he resigned after being exposed by an undercover journalist for claiming, among other things, to have access to the most important people in government, Draper was present at a reception in the House of Commons organised by Cambridge University.

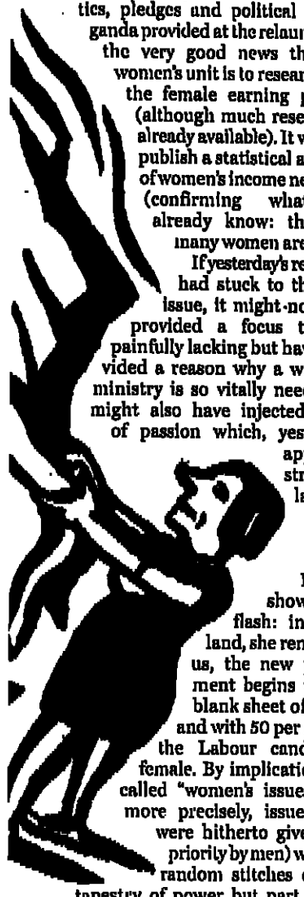
While lobbying firms have since distanced themselves from the Draper scandal, Oxford's hiring of Draper is indicative of the changing nature of power in Westminster.

The Government met the full weight of the Oxbridge campaign to retain their college fees subsidy, which included impassioned speeches by college heads in the House of Lords and, according to some reports, even pleas from the prime minister's former Oxford tutor.

The two vice-chancellors also had a series of head-to-head meetings with the Secretary of State for Education, David Blunkett, and Brian Fender, the chief executive of the Higher Education Funding Council for England.

Yet the Oxbridge universities faced a problem unprecedented in

Oxford faced a new problem — a Cabinet full of red brick graduates



a career is sabotaged or skills underutilised in the part-time ghetto. In addition, since there are fewer national insurance contributions, women are also poorer as pensioners.

To articulate this, as Blair might have done, isn't to make notches on the score card in the battle between the sexes (mistakenly referred to as "seventies feminism"); they are the facts of economic life which a decent and fair society has to address if it is to thrive for the benefit of men, too. This message needs to be backed by a powerful public advertising campaign; a full-time women's minister who constantly argues the case; and research into male and female attitudes to understand and react to the scale of resistance such radical changes can engender.

As it is, yesterday's press conference was yet another case of women talking to women about issues that concerned (absent) men. Even Tessa Jowell's pledge to embark once again on a tour, "listening to women", fills one with gloom. A battalion of male politicians and employers should do the listening instead.

Buried deep in the excess of statistics, pledges and political propaganda provided at the relaunch was the very good news that the women's unit is to research into the female earning pattern (although much research is already available). It will also publish a statistical analysis of women's income next year (confirming what we already know: that too many women are poor).

If yesterday's relaunch had stuck to this one issue, it might not have provided a focus that is painfully lacking but have provided a reason why a women's ministry is so vitally needed. It might also have injected a bit of passion which, yesterday, appeared strangely lacking, except when Helen Liddell showed a flash: in Scotland, she reminded us, the new parliament begins with a blank sheet of paper and with 50 per cent of the Labour candidates female. By implication, so-called "women's issues" (or, more precisely, issues that were hitherto given low priority by men) won't be random stitches on the tapestry of power but part of the main motif. Roll on the day.

What happens to students who are academically gifted but psychologically damaged? **Maureen Freely** examines the case of the Harvard scholarship student who killed her roommate

Death on campus

On my first day at Harvard, the president of the women's college gave us a welcoming speech. She knew, she said, that each of us thought we were the admissions committee's one big mistake, but we were not to worry: Harvard *never* made mistakes. And it would be a support to us in whatever we set out to do.

What she didn't say was that those who didn't know how to ask for help didn't get it. The adjustment was particularly hard for those who came (as in my case) from overseas. My worst culture clashes were the personal ones. One roommate changed the lock in January and would not let me back in for the rest of the year; another threatened to jump out of the window if I didn't sleep with her; a third took me to court.

Which is why all sorts of bells rang when I first read about Sinedu Tadesse, the Ethiopian scholarship student who, in May 1995, killed her Vietnamese roommate by stabbing her in the chest 45 times and who went on to hang herself in the shower of their Dunster House suite. It seemed all too plausible, but at the same time, the story as reported in the papers didn't quite make sense. There was talk of a "hopeless mystery", not just about the girls' deaths but about their lives, too. According to Melanie Thernstrom, who has now written a book on the case, a "peculiar discourse developed on campus in which, rather than being viewed distinctly, as murderer and victim, the girls were recalled in one breath, as if their deaths were part of some unfathomable blood rite". There was even talk of a joint scholarship in both their names.

Thernstrom was drawn to the story, she says, because she had been a student at Dunster House in the late eighties and because when she was teaching at Harvard in the early nineties, she had met Sinedu. She remembers her as a plain, mousy girl whom she had not admitted to a writing class. It did not take much digging to find out that this was something of a pattern. "I was one in a long line of people whom Sinedu had reached out to and who did not respond to her."

The exception was Trang Ho, her roommate — but not for long. Accounts of Trang and Sinedu stressed how alike they were: they were both vaguely sexless, had both lived through terrible political strife in their native countries and both dreamed of becoming doctors. But their personalities could not have been more different. Sinedu was a loner and mechanical worker, while Trang was intellectually voracious


Killed ... Trang Ho


Killer ... Sinedu Tadesse

and hugely popular. The two became roommates at the last minute, almost by accident, and got along initially.

The problems began when Trang failed to become the perfect friend Sinedu had never had but longed for; the final betrayal was when Trang decided to room with other people during their final year. Sinedu wrote in her diary: "On the way to depression and battered with pessimistic thoughts. I am saying there is no use to my life. I am unlovable ... Trang told me I am boring."

What makes her feel hopeless is knowing this will never "reverse". "The bad way out I see is suicide and the good way out killing, savouring the fear, and then suicide. But you know what annoys me most, I do nothing. You would think I was both hand and leg-cuffed to a couch."

Yet the diary also shows how hard Sinedu did try to get help. The whole time she was at Harvard, she was seeing a counsellor — who had a degree in education, but not psychology or psychiatry, so missed the signs that pointed to severe depression and Schizoidal Personality Disorder.

Another missed opportunity was the "letter to a stranger" that Sinedu posted to people chosen at random from the phone book. In it she spoke of being desperate. "Even the days I call happy are randomly pierced with pain." One recipient of the letter sent it to a friend at Harvard, who sent it on to a dean, who sent it on to Dunster House where it was filed away and forgotten.

So how much is Harvard to blame? According to Thernstrom, it is "not their fault. But mistakes were made and opportunities for intervention missed." The thing she has a harder time forgiving is the lengths to which the administration went to obstruct her own investigations. They told her outright lies, issued "gag orders" to stop employees talking, withheld documents and stonewalled Trang and Sinedu's families. No one outside the administration has seen the university's internal review. No one can find out if the counsellor broke the law by failing to report murder threats he might have heard Sinedu make. The families could sue to have these records released, but that would take money they don't have.

The administration also worked hard to discredit the book Thernstrom wrote once she got access to the diaries. There has been no official response to the larger questions the book raises; she has had word that people in high places have read it and done the necessary soul-searching. But if it has had any effect at all on the way they handle foreign students, or students in mental distress, it is happening the spin doctor way — behind closed doors and with firm denials for anyone who presses for details.

I rang the university yesterday and spoke to a very nice woman at the undergraduate admissions office. She could not recall any changes in their approach to foreign students in the wake of the tragedy, she said. She had not read the book; neither had Alex Huppe, the aggressive, very suspicious spokesman at the university news office. When I asked him what safety net was available for foreign students, he said: "Harvard has available every imaginable form of counselling." When I asked him to be specific, he said it was my job to ask specific questions: "You ask and I give."

Well, say I was thinking of sending my daughter from England, what sort of help could she expect while she found her feet? He answered with another question. "What would be so special about the needs of this child?" Well, she comes from a different culture. "Oh," he said, as if that were a strange disability indeed.

His tone made me remember how lost I'd felt at Harvard in the days before I found *my* feet and the problems of going to a university that never makes mistakes.

Halfway Heaven: Diary Of A Harvard Murder by Melanie Thernstrom is published this week by Virago at £9.99.

Side

Although us girls buy cars these days, looking after them is still a little perplexing. Fear no more. TST of the UK Ltd, a company specialising in paint sealant, has made the whole business more appealing. A total respray, glass repair, alloy wheel refurbishment and engine cleaning can be done in their newly opened Saturday Appearance Workshops in Acton, west London. "Now women drivers can take their cars to their own beauty salon," the publicity boasts. So it's like a manicure and facial — oh, now we understand.

The Government will introduce parental leave rights by December 1999 which will entitle working parents to take time off to look after their children. But the Parental Leave Campaign, an alliance of trade unions, childcare groups and women's organisations, is launching a campaign at the House of Commons this Thursday to argue that it will be of little use unless workers are paid. The fact that 14 per cent of male MPs, compared with only 7 per cent of women MPs, have young children suggests family-friendly policies should start in the House.

What could drive women in Australia to slap pharmacists, pay £1,000 for something worth £20 and break down in tears? Cellulite, of course. According to a report in the Express, a herbal remedy that claims to cure orange-peel bums is causing havoc. An initial shipment of 50,000 boxes sold out within an hour. Made from common herbs, including evening primose oil, Cellasene has been compared to Viagra. But will it be available on the NHS?

Minister for Women Baroness Jay says she is not a feminist. In an interview in the Independent on Sunday, she said: "In politics, feminism is seen as negative, complaining about things; it's perceived to be about separateness, putting up a brick wall between men and women. I don't think you have to be negative like that." Mmm. Such negativity got girls educated, women into Oxford, parliament and the Cabinet.

The daughter of God has finally been sent to earth — in the form of ex-Spice Girl Geri Halliwell. Born-again Ginger told the Sunday Times: "I've realised that I can't just fulfil my own ego and ambition, and this year I'm trying to do some good. I think I was meant to be an evangelist in girl power and it's my duty to empower women." Two thousand years late and a Tory, but thank you, Lord.

Raekha Prasad

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Further particulars may be obtained from Ms S. Pinnock, Secretary of the Clinical School, Hills Road, Cambridge, CB2 2SP (tel. 01223 336700, e-mail lmdt2@medschl.cam.ac.uk), to whom applications (6 copies) must be sent (letter and curriculum vitae), plus the names and addresses of two referees, by 2 December 1998. Potential applicants are welcome to contact Ms Pinnock to discuss the post informally.

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Application forms and further details can be obtained by sending a 7x10 stamped, addressed envelope to Human Resources, University of North London, Holloway Road, London N7 8DB, or e-mail a.hartley@unl.ac.uk quoting reference CRS001.

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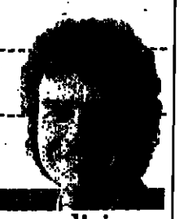
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Body and soul

David Peters



An expert guide to complementary medicine

The pregnant pause and how to end it

Post-maturity — not a school of French philosophy, but the medical term for a baby that has been inside too long. Actually almost three weeks too long.

As the days passed the tone of friends' inquiries changed subtly from pre-congratulatory, to hesitantly expectant, to downright quizzical. Why, we were all asking, had the baby not arrived? We'd done everything to try and make sure things would go naturally — the Foresight vitamins, the yoga, the active childbirth classes — and still we were waiting.

Our friend the radical midwife assured us that almost everyone goes into labour unaided provided you can wait a full 43 weeks but the obstetrician reckoned that damned few do afterwards. Most maternity units insist on inducing by 42 weeks, so our feeling of being somehow deviant was growing daily. We reckoned to hang on if the baby could, and our brilliant local midwifery unit were supportive as long as they had lots of monitoring. Scary.

We were veering alarmingly between the pros and cons of waiting for a natural birth, sometimes consoling ourselves with the statistic that left alone the average pregnancy is now 41 weeks.

The Natural Childbirth Trust teacher told us this and we listened intently — as you do to anyone who seems to know something about the subject; speculating meanwhile in a professional sort of way about why pregnancy should be longer nowadays; then chewing our fingernails over why this particular one had.

Out of the blue friends and colleagues reveal how the same thing happened to them, or a relative; and in a very kind way people fill you in with their theory about why it was so and tell you what sorted them out.

All of which confirms my conviction that we are story-telling creatures who crave above all a good tale about things that seize our imagination. And pregnancy does of course — in spades. Anything abnormal will do it but pregnancy is a walking, talking metaphor and so startlingly noticeable as the commonest abnormality around. It fascinates because we have all been there, obviously.

There's a magic here too, and a basic urge to feel we can make sense of it and do the right thing. Hence the lively lore about whys and wherefores of getting or not getting pregnant, what causes an easy or a difficult labour, what brings on premature labour or (I was bound to get to it eventually) what makes a baby late and what to do about it?

Down here in the murky hinterland of health-belief, babies are late for psychological reasons: from the benign ("your baby must be very peaceful and easy-going") and cosy ("it must be too comfortable in there") to the psychoanalytic ("perhaps you are more anxious about parenthood than you think") and the new age ("she has decided to be a Scorpio").

Then there is a wealth of ideas about what to do. An agricultural friend suggested a bumpy tractor ride; the suburban version requires reckless driving over sleeping policemen. In every case the informant was convinced it had worked for them. Apparently curry usually figures in treatment packages. Gin occasionally — and lots of sex.

Put against these remedies, complementary therapists' suggestions looked tenable. The homoeopath prescribed microdoses of caulophyllum , a plant called "squaw root" which is supposed to encourage regular, rhythmic and strong contractions. The aromatherapy book mentioned clary sage oil. But caveats about toxicity stayed our hand and another book even warned that it could provoke extremely powerful contractions. We tried acupuncture instead.

Some of my best friends are acupuncturists (no really) and they all agreed that needling was in order: Spleen 6, a point just above the inside of the ankle, and Colon 4 which is in the web between the thumb and index finger. The first they told me opens you up, the second "moves energy down". Don't believe all you hear about acupuncture not being painful. It seemed worth a stab, so we did. Still nothing. But we felt as long as the high-tech stuff was on standby and if the scans said the baby was well we should still try for a natural birth. The doctors and midwives agreed. That's post-modernity for you.

Finally though, when push came to shove, a Caesarean was what it took. And it's a girl! 10lbs 11oz. Big. A Scorpio with Pisces rising. And she's beautiful; like her mother.

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Health

Can you improve your memory by chewing gum? A new product is said to do just that. But as **Hilary Bower** reports, claims for such 'functional foods' need more investigation

Swallow these with a pinch of salt

Bacteria for breakfast, extract of pine wood-pulp to spread on your bread, and "brain gum" that allows you, unlike former US president Gerald Ford, to walk, chew, and improve your memory at the same time — these are just some ingredients of the new "functional foods" due to hit our supermarket shelves over the coming months.

Also known as nutraceuticals or FoSHUs — foods for specified health uses — they are the new trend in self-administered health care. Their defining characteristic is that they must have an ingredient that offers a health benefit beyond that provided by its traditional nutrients. The items above, for example, claim to aid gastric health, lower cholesterol and halt memory loss caused by ageing.

The definition sets them apart from the well-known nutritional mantra of fresh fruit and vegetables, oily fish, wholegrains and olive oil, and the kind of low-fat, vitamin-enriched products which are seen as tools to maintaining good health.

It puts them in a new — and almost completely unregulated — category of foods which claim actively to treat the causes of ill health, a position which is raising concerns about just how such claims are to be policed.

As yet only a few have reached the supermarket shelves, but the trickle is about to become a flood. Leading the way are margarines which claim to reduce cholesterol by around 10 per cent by themselves and not just as part of a low fat diet.

Flora manufacturers Unilever and a smaller Finnish company are set to launch their version of cholesterol-lowering margarines and a similar enriched yoghurt in early 1999. Flora's spread is enriched with sterol oils from soya beans while the Finnish Benecol contains an oil derived from pine wood-pulp called plant stanol ester. They both interfere with the absorption of cholesterol in the gut without being absorbed themselves.

In a one-year trial involving over 150 people with mildly elevated cholesterol levels, researchers found eating daily 24 grams of Benecol (the equivalent of three butter pats) reduced total cholesterol by 10 per cent and low-density lipoprotein or "bad" cholesterol by 14 per cent, with no change in the beneficial high-density lippoprotein. Unilever has published similar results for its enriched Flora.

Such reductions, if extended to the whole population, could cut deaths from coronary heart disease by 20 per cent, and according to Professor Brian Pentecost, medical director of the British Heart Foundation, could even prevent the need for some people to take cholesterol-lowering drugs.

"Conventional diets can produce up to a 10 per cent reduction in cholesterol, but that needs a pretty rigorous regimen: it's usually more like three to five per cent. Given that cholesterol in the population as a whole is too high, if these margarines really do what is claimed they could be taken in the same way many of us have now switched to skimmed milk."

But, he adds, assurance of safety and efficacy are as vital with these new products as with new drugs. "You are using substances we might normally encounter in our diet but in nothing like the amounts that you will consume when eating these new margarines. It also has to be clear that the claims made result from the kind of quantities of margarine we would normally expect to consume — it's no good if you have to eat huge amounts to get the reduction."

A second area of great activity in functional foods is "probiotics" which in contrast to antibiotics promote rather than retard the growth of bacteria. Although most of us have been brought up to kill all known germs, in reality we can't do without some bugs and particularly the almost one kilogram of them living the walls of our large intestine.

Those natural flora keep harmful bacteria in check and are vital to digestion. But they can be depleted by such factors as poor diet, stress and medications. Probiotics, some believe, are just what is needed to redress this balance and avoid ailments as diverse as allergies, irritable bowel syndrome and cancer.

"Bio-yoghurts" with enhanced bacterial contents, and the Japanese fermented milk drink Yakult, have become familiar in supermarkets this year. Next January Swedish manufacturer Skane Dairy plans to introduce the first non-dairy probiotic food — ProViva — a fruit-flavoured juice fermented with billions of the gut bacterium lactobacillus plantarum 299v which, research suggests, improves irritable bowel symptoms in around half of subjects.

But while there's little doubt that the balance of bacteria in the gut is important, Rob Mollan, scientist with the Rowatt Institute's Research Services — which investigates functional foods — cautions there are still unanswered question about probiotics, most importantly whether "foreign" bacteria, which have not evolved with us like our natural protectors, survive for long enough in the difficult acidic environment of the gut to do any good.

"There is evidence that taking some of these products does bring benefits, but not for every single product, though most probably won't do you any harm," he adds. Since probiotics carry a price premium this offers little in the way of reassurance of value for money.

For Mollan, the answer to gut health lies not in probiotics which simply import extra bacteria but "prebiotics" which increase the food

'There is evidence that taking some of these products does bring benefits but not for every single product'



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Visual arts


David Swift... collects monsters, and is counting the cost


Seven-year-old Sophie Jones... collects glasses

You are what you collect

Why do people hoard things — bottle tops, beer mats, scabs and Kinder Surprises **Jaye Griffiths**

You are the collector in the gallery of your life. You collect. You might not mean to but you do. It might be owls or pussycats, photos or fluff or funny facts. It might be monsters, mice or men. One person in three, it is estimated, collects tangible things. Cliff Pearcey collects "Noisy Toys". Roy Reed collects Marvel comics. Jane Reynolds collects snails. Dave Swift has amassed a collection of monsters. It is worth £25,000, but has cost him far more than money.

These are among some 40 collections that are being shown at "The Museum Of" — the first of a series of temporary museums which, over the next two years, will celebrate the collections of ordinary people. In doing so, they will legitimise a popular culture of museums, not the high-culture, expert-led authoritas that museums normally represent.

Some of the collections are fairly common — records, model houses. Others are strangely beautiful — branches that have fallen from trees, for instance. But they all reveal an enormous amount: ask someone what they collect and they will tell you who they are.

Karen Salt collects "Care Bears" and is round-faced and cuddly. Sophie Jones collects shot glasses. Why? "I like them because they're small." Being only seven, so is she. She also wears round, well-polished spectacles which reflect the glasses she collects.

Pete Kelly collects sounds, mainly Slavic sounds, for his mother is Ukrainian, and he puts these sounds together to make a new, musical language, which he alone understands. It's not just sounds. He collects "anything, from bits of metal to bits of information". Sometimes he makes a collection of objects, arranges them and then leaves them in parks for other people to find — a gesture of gentle generosity. He has a collection of classified ads ("Pork Belly Pigs For Sale", or "Free Manure: You Haul"), which he leaves between bricks of cheese in supermarkets.

"It's to do with the absurdity of life. It would give me pleasure to find and I hope it gives others that pleasure. If it causes someone to remember or recollect something, then it has succeeded." For "collections" are intimate with "re-collections"; museums and memory are close. The word "museum" is from "seat of the muses" and the nine muses were originally goddesses of memory.

Tim Miller has been collecting found objects from the banks of the Thames since he was nine and is now a member of "The Mudlark Society", which offers rare licences to dig along the banks. He can tell you how many inches you dig to reach certain periods of the past. Nine inches is Georgian. Three feet is Elizabethan. The past is always underground.

"The Museum Of" is dedicated to exploring what museums are for, and the relationship between people and museums. After The Museum of Collectors, there will be "The Museum of Me", "The Museum of Emotions", "The Museum of The Unknown", leading to "The Museum of the River Thames"; and the whole project is a focus for discussing a proposed permanent "Thames Museum".

In this show, the thinkers behind the project — artistic director Clare Patey, with associate Pippa Bailey — want to explore why people collect, and what it means to collect. They hope that visitors who may not have considered themselves collectors will begin to see that they are.

For the urge to collect is almost universal, though there are many types of collecting. Some experts say that there is a strand of "consumer collecting", which happens in direct response to advertising and marketing strategies. Others say it is a residue of the hunter-gatherer mindset, an appetite. One collection in this exhibition is of 2,000 Kinder Surprise toys and, to its owner, Jayne Jordan, eating and collecting are one and the same. "I treat it as my after-dinner snack. It is a part of my diet." Interestingly, jockeys and ballerinas are said to be avid collectors, suggesting that those who must literally suppress their appetite can satisfy it in a metaphoric way. (One circus performer, at The Circus Space, who similarly needs to control her appetite for professional reasons, is also a keen collector. Of scabs and dead skin. She is said to keep a bag for her own or anyone else's crispiest, crustiest, ruddiest, ooziest).

> Kelly collects classified adverts and leaves them between cheeses in supermarkets

Women tend to collect in a partially functional way: Jane Reynolds, president of the British Conchological Society, combines a strong academic interest in snails with a collection of snail postcards, jewellery, toys, or clothes with snails on — but she will wear the clothes, put on the jewellery. Male collectors, meanwhile, tend to segregate the collection and its function. Daragh Reeves, the "can man", has collected 1,500 drinks cans, but they are unopened.

Some collectors say they started or stopped making collections at crux points, the beginning or end of adolescence — "it is a growing-up thing; you stop when you grow up", says one. Other traumatic times are mentioned — the death of a parent, or the end of a relationship. It is as if there is a desire to control time itself by making a system of it. For time — and life — can seem so uncontrollable that a steady serial arrangement is very comforting. Crucially, by embodying the past in a collection you can refuse to accept that the past is gone, so loss need not be loss, death need not be final, childhood need never be over.

The largest, most valuable collection on display is Dave Swift's collection of "monsters", some 5,000 Frankensteins and Draculas, skeletons, vampires and horror-movie memorabilia. For him, the link between his collection and his childhood is poignant. As a child, he had made a "monster" collection and, though his parents were at first indulgent, they gradually removed it to the loft and then threw away almost his entire collection.

Then, he says, "Fast Forward to Easter '95." He was living with his girlfriend in a rented flat and they were saving to buy somewhere. His father had recently died, and Dave was seriously ill. Depressed, he revisited his mother and his childhood home, and found the remnants of his collection. "I could have cried," he says, "as all my childhood memories came flooding back." He began collecting monsters a second time, restocking as far as possible the items he had had in his childhood collection. There will always be two collections for him, the present, tangible one and the past, intangible one — the memory of his childhood collection. The "original" one exists only in his memory, like original innocence.

He spent some £25,000 on his collection. All the money being saved for a home was spent on monsters. His girlfriend was furious. She broke off the relationship, and he became homeless. His collection has never before seen the light of day. Repeating the history of his original collection, most of this one has been kept (in unopened boxes) in the loft of her flat. In a sense, all collecting is "saving", meaning both "keeping" and "rescuing" — rescuing monsters from mums and lofts or rescuing memories from forgetfulness. And the relationship between collector and collection means that the objects can be both saved and saving.

For Swift, the experience of seeing the whole collection for the first time has been "quite sobering. Yes it's been important, but I can now also see what it has cost me. My girlfriend. A home. For a whole load of monsters." The collection did "rescue" him in a very bad part of his life, but now he feels a bit aghast at what it represents: "I find myself looking at it and thinking maybe I should sell it all after the show. Or maybe" — and he is smiling with innocent relief, freedom at the very thought — "I should just chuck it all in the Thames." If he did, there would be cheers from all those who've heard his story. Go on, Dave. Do It. Dare you. And anyway, doubtless there would be mudlarks galore to re-collect the lot.

"The Museum Of" opens in the Bargehouse, Oxo Tower Wharf, London SE1. The Museum Of Collectors runs from November 13 to March 6, 1999. Details: 0171-401 2255.

Oh, for a lovely war



Stone symbol . . . a memorial to the Commandos in the Highlands

Lives As the 80th anniversary of the Armistice approaches, the columnists have been lamenting a generation untested by combat. But, says **Stephen Moss**, they should count themselves lucky

They shall not grow old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.

Lawrence Binyon's Poem For The Fallen never fails to move; the sounding of the Last Post never fails to move; the service of remembrance at the Cenotaph never fails to move. If tears do not well up as the massed bands play Elgar's Nimrod, a memoir of a friend, a hymn now to the fallen, you are made of sterner stuff than I.

This year is a watershed. Tomorrow marks the 80th anniversary of the end of the carnage that came to be called the first world war. Living survivors of that conflict, estimated at around 4,200 in the UK, are diminishing in both number and ability to bear witness; none marched in Sunday's rain. It is now for others to remember; to decide what that war meant. We will remember them, but how will we remember them?

On Sunday, Channel 4 remembered by showing Stanley Kubrick's superb anti-war film, Paths Of Glory, about men not just sent into battle to die, but then court-martialled when they refused to go meekly to their deaths. In the Sunday Times, columnist Andrew Roberts remembered by telling us to, as the headline to his piece put it, "envy those who rose to the challenge of war".

"Why should these men, simply through a chronological accident, have had the chance to serve their country so courageously, whereas our own generation has been consigned to live in an era that history will quickly forget," he wrote. "It is impossible not to feel a sense of nihilism about an age in which the biggest issues seem to be about interest rates and Ron Davies's nocturnal activities, rather than life and death, peace and war."

He recalled Enoch Powell's famous remark about wishing he had died in the second world war rather than having to live on in a declining, directionless Britain. "It has been dismissed as Nietzschean twaddle," said Roberts, "but in fact it makes perfect sense . . . It is hard to find much purpose in the modern era, shorn as it has been of sacrifice and danger. With even the cold war now over, the present age has settled down into a comfortable, consensual world of mild hedonism, trivia, sports obsession, foodiness and social democracy." *Social democracy/* Blairite Britain as Weimar, mark II.

Roberts is not alone in his views; indeed, there appears to be a Sunday Times line on the matter, judging from an interview his fellow columnist Robert Harris gave to the Herald recently to publicise his new thriller, Archangel. "I would have hated the war and I'm deeply thankful to have missed it," he told the Scottish paper. "Having said that, the fact that our generation has not had to confront these things has led to a trivialisation of life. You need to have something bigger than yourself to see your life in perspective, otherwise you get what we have got now — people start saving for their pensions in their twenties, worry about passive smoking, health; you get to 40 and have a crisis.

"It's a selfish, solipsistic life today. If you had been through D-Day, the Blitz or been on an Atlantic convoy you would *see life in perspective*. I've listened to first and second world war veterans talk about their experiences. What will we have to talk about, I wonder?"

The end of history is, it seems, the beginning of hysteria. Even normally sensible chaps are not immune. Jeremy Paxman has recently been on the interview circuit too, talking about his book The English: A Portrait Of A People. The book, and the interviews he gave, smack of melancholy — what is England, what does it mean, what is it achieving? Nothing, he seems to say, yet once we were great.

"I suppose we measure ourselves by our fathers, and our fathers, by our age, had had to . . . well, my father was on the North Atlantic convoys and I think had a hard war," he said in this paper. "There is something at the back of one's mind telling one that we have had it very easy and that we have been insufficiently appreciative of our parents' generation, who didn't have it very easy. There is something graceless about our current self-absorption. For God's sake, I'm not saying that we want a war, but one is aware . . . that we've not been tested."

He too makes the leap to a blanket condemnation of the way we live now. "Politics has become the preserve of obsessives who strike an attitude at 16 and never grow up," he wrote apropos of William Hague in the Sunday Telegraph. "I have voted for all the parties in my time and it's a constant disappointment, isn't it?" he complained in the Standard.

What, then, was he looking for? "We are all looking for certainty. This is the all-important question: if there is a purpose. I don't have an answer to it and I want to. I have asked it periodically throughout my life."

The dangers of the Roberts view — that only in the crucible of war are we tested, made whole — is that it has a superficial truth and a spurious appeal. Clearly, this is a non-ideological age. Yes, we are governed, by and large, by mediocrities, trimming, spinning, set on winning. Yes, we are obsessed by materialism, sport and sex. Yes, we do now read Loaded rather than Livy. But none of that makes war good or democracy bad.

War does "make a man of you", unless it kills you of course. Siegfried Sassoon went to war a sybaritic youth and, on the front line, gained self-knowledge. In Memoirs Of An Infantry Officer, he wrote: "I didn't want to die — not before I'd read The Return Of The Native anyhow . . . the soldiers in love with killing portrayed by the historian Niall Ferguson in his new book The Pity Of War, but Sassoon is a writer and therefore doesn't count in Ferguson's revisionist treatment of the conflict.

Max Hastings, in a recent essay in the Evening Standard, drew a distinction between the pointless slaughter of the first world war and the necessary sacrifice of the second war: "I, for one, believe that our generation could and would do what our parents did to defeat the Nazis in World War Two — but that we would not have borne the martyrdom of the Western Front in World War One. Such patient tolerance of suffering was possible only in an age of deference, when we believed our betters, men like [Field Marshal] Haig, really did know best." In other words, war is not glorious per se, though sometimes, in extremis, it may be necessary.

War, allied to the collapse of empire, has defined Britain this century. The second world war was "our finest hour", a shining period of certainty: Hitler had to be defeated, every sinew of the *body politic was directed at achieving* that victory. Many of those who fought found it hard to adjust to peace: they were, some still say, the best years of their lives.

That is entirely understandable: these veterans, now in their seventies and eighties, were young, fresh and eager, enjoying a comradeship and sense of purpose they perhaps never felt again. Listen to them respectfully, but don't necessarily trust those rose-tinted reveries. The dead are not here to speak; those incarcerated in Japanese prison camps may prefer not to speak; others, like Evelyn Waugh, found war tedious and demeaning, an endless preparation for a brief, bloody and usually badly managed burst of activity.

Roberts, Harris and Paxman all grew up in the shadow of the second world war, when memories of the finest hour were being replaced by a *Britain which had to come to terms* with de-colonisation. For them, it would seem, the loss of both role and empire has been a difficult burden to bear.

Even in the counter-cultural sixties, the war held sway. The Victor comic, that boys' bible of courage and combat, was first published in 1961, when war and the privations it brought were far enough away to seem glorious; the entire nation stopped to mark Churchill's funeral in 1965; it took a generation for Germany to stop being seen as the enemy. Roberts, embracing middle age in his mid-thirties, is the remnant of the view that Britons are best when they fight, that peace is synonymous with muddled politics, a soulless society, and now Eurotreachery. He is lamenting the death of a sterling nation.

Some final thoughts from a writer who would have made a powerful *columnist: "Mankind has grown* great in eternal struggle, and only in eternal peace does it perish." "A man does not die for business, but for ideals." "Sooner will a camel pass through a needle's eye than a great man be discovered by an election." In case you hadn't guessed: Adolf Hitler, in Mein Kampf.

Ever since my existence became precarious I had realised how little I'd used my brains in peace time, and now I was always trying to keep my mind from stagnation."

But Sassoon's conclusion was not that war was ennobling; it was that it *was a wretched waste of time. He* said as much in his poetry, made speeches against the war, was called mad for his pains. "If I were fierce, and bold, and short of breath, / I'd live with scarlet Majors at the Base, / And speed glum heroes up the line to death," he wrote, to jingoistic Britain's fury. A world away from



'It's a selfish, solipsistic life today. If you had been through D-Day or the Blitz you'd see life in perspective'
Robert Harris



'It is hard to find much purpose in the modern era, shorn as it has been of sacrifice and danger'
Andrew Roberts



'I'm not saying that we want a war, but one is aware . . . that we've not been tested'
Jeremy Paxman

Column inches



Armando Iannucci

No place for passion in a partnership of excellence

I went to a wedding six months ago. It was the marriage of a friend of mine called Susan and her fiancé, Michael. I knew there was going to be something strange about this wedding when I arrived at the register office and saw a large banner outside saying: "Michael and Susan '98: Towards The New Millennium In A Partnership Of Excellence."

Inside was no different. As we took our seats, stirring music was played, from a CD of corporate mood music called Nuptial Powerhouse. The lights dimmed, and on a large display-screen dominating the hall, a four-minute introductory video gave us an exciting summary of the last six months of Michael and Susan's wedding preparations. We learned that the food alone cost £2,500, that the seating plan was constructed using the latest 34-bit Pentium technology, and that the closing hymn was chosen from a final high-quality shortlist of 30 of the best psalms as voted on by the readers of the Watford Times.

Finally, as the video reached its stirring climax, showing members of the public smiling round a computer-generated graphic of a terrace house, the lights dimmed and a voice on a PA system shouted: "Ladies and gentlemen, please welcome your host for today's proceedings, comedian Tony Hawks!"

Hawks then bounded on and told some gags about London Transport and the royal yacht Britannia, which went down well with the family of the bride, whose *father was once in shipping. Five* minutes later, Hawks then introduced the register office official, who came on to the podium to the romantic theme music from The English Patient. She gave a short speech about how the office had conducted 9 per cent more marriages in the past 12 months than in the previous year, representing the fifth year-on-year increase in marriage ceremonies since she replaced Councillor David Taylor.

She also clicked up a graph explaining that, far from posing a threat to marriage, divorce actually represented good business for her industry, since those who married a second time tended to choose register offices rather than church weddings. Indeed, the office now had a market share of 38 per cent, up 12 points on a decade ago. To a final slide of "The Register Office, Watford: Births, *Marriages and Deaths for the Next* Hundred Years" she was heartily applauded and then Hawks came back on and did some jokes about cars.

Susan and Michael went on to make their separate presentations. Michael hosted an imaginative audio-visual display showing how he was both economically and genetically suited for a prosperous career in higher education teaching, while Susan concentrated on the theme of "Awakening", helped and illustrated with the famous 20-piece dance and percussion group Stomp.

Everyone applauded, the papers were signed and we all went off to the reception, where we were split up into groups of 10 and made to race each other against the clock in an exercise involving Lego bricks and an artificial pond. This section of the afternoon was completed by a man from a company called "Nuptivator International" and was titled "Marriage: It's About *Good Navigating". The session was* designed to make the two families get to know each other a bit better. Basically, you had to make a boat and blow it across the water with a straw. There was also a prize for the person who used the Lego pieces to make the funniest looking salmon.

And so Susan and Michael got married. I haven't really seen much of them since. I gather they're doing well now but about three months ago I heard that they had a few problems. Susan wasn't coordinating her spending plans with Michael's three-year budget while Michael had surprisingly primitive listening skills. Though they had built steadily on their income, satisfaction was dipping within the internal domestic structure, settling alarmingly below the national *average. So they brought in a fam*ily consultant.

Susan and Michael are just one of a growing number of couples who turn to family consultants to advise and even repair faltering domestic operations. The family, recent research has unearthed, is an effective emotional, economic, and social unit when all sections work together for the common good of that unit. Its output can be measured in "domemes", being a newly recognised measure of the domestic social stability produced by a properly working family over a seven-day period. In Britain, the average family produced 2.9 domemes, well below the European average of 3.8, but above countries such as New Zealand (2.4) and Lapland (0.8).

Domeme growth has been minimal recently. Indeed, output has shrunk throughout the nineties, which is why attention has to be turned to finding new ways of solidifying family life. Children born into families that are troubled or where one of the parents simply takes off, can look confused at school and take up many teacher-hours' of attention and energy that could better be utilised in more maths classes. A mother left looking after a family on her own has no time to go to HMV or Virgin, thus ruining Britain's music industry which is, ironically, full of songs about mothers being left on their own.

A lesbian couple with children will never bring up boys to learn how to check the underside of a car, thus causing faulty wiring to go through unchecked, leading to more accidents on the road and a higher NHS bill. Generally, low domeme output within a family leads to general despond, disaffection and demoralisation, which causes a run on vicars and counsellors and is of absolutely no use in times of war.

So Michael and Susan got in a family consultant. And, after weeks of in-depth analysis of their personal situation, he gave them the best advice they could possibly receive; they were to give their marriage a relaunch.

So three months after their wed*ding, they summoned everyone* back to the register office and unveiled the new colour of their marriage: it was purple. They also introduced us to Kenny, who was going to be joining them in the marriage as a third partner with non-voting rights and whose official title was "liaison coordinator".

All questions to Susan and Michael had to be put through Kenny. The team also announced their family plans. They were going to have an exploratory first child next summer and, to help out, set up a layer of child-management under them to take care of the day-to-day parenting. It was envisaged that there would be five positions to be filled in this area.

And so Michael and Susan now live happily in their terrace house, with Kenny and five sub-parents, awaiting the arrival of the new Michael-and-Susan one-off Toddlet, the design of which will be revealed to the local press at Watford Town Hall next June. I'm told Jarvis Cocker will be there.

Michael and Susan now live happily in their terrace house, awaiting the arrival of the one-off Toddlet

Armando Iannucci's comedy tour Out Of His Box continues this weekend in Oxford and Bristol. For ticket info telephone Oxford on 01865 794490 and Bristol on 0117 9877877.